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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, give us reverence for Your greatness. Guide our Senators around the pitfalls of their work, enabling them to have hearts sustained by Your peace. May they surrender their will to You, as they trust You to direct their steps.

Lord, give them the wisdom to receive Your reproof with the understanding that You chastise those whom You love for their good.

Make their lives productive for the glory of Your Name. And, Lord, bless Ukraine.

We pray in the Name of our redeemer. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3967, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Vermont. Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

H.R. 3967

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today is a historic, long-awaited day for our Nation's veterans. In a few moments, the Senate is finally going to pass the PACT Act—the most significant expansion of healthcare benefits for our veterans in generations. It is officially called the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act because Heath Robinson was one of the many who succumbed to the poisons of toxins that he was exposed to fighting for America.

For too long, our Nation's veterans have faced an absurd indignity: They enlisted to serve our country, went abroad in good health, and came back, only to get sick from toxic exposure endured while in the line of duty.

As many as 3½ million veterans have been affected by burn pits since 9/11.

Yet approximately 80 percent of all disability claims connected to burn pits have been rejected by the VA. So many of our veterans have been fought by the VA after they fought for us, as they try to get healthcare benefits. Many of them had to hire lawyers just to prove their illnesses and then do a complicated legal dance to show what everyone knew: that toxic exposure from burn pits caused all kinds of cancers and other diseases. That was so, so wrong. Indignity. The callousness of forcing veterans who got sick as they were fighting for us because of exposure to these toxins, to have to fight for years in the VA to get the benefits they deserved—well, that will soon be over, praise God.

To these American heroes who have carried on without the benefits they deserve, I have one thing to say: No more. Today, the Senate finally takes action to right this profound wrong.

The PACT Act will finally change outdated rules at the VA that have been in effect for far too long that prevent our veterans from getting the care they need to treat health complications caused by burn pits. It will expand eligibility for VA medical care to make sure veterans get the help they need.

There is even more good news in the PACT Act. It is not just about burn pits, as important as they are. The PACT Act will expand coverage of health issues exacerbated by Agent Orange, which, over the years, I have strongly pushed for in this Chamber.

I want to give deep thanks to Senators TESTER and MORAN, who worked for months to push this bill over the finish line. Their leadership on this issue has been extraordinary.

I want to thank my colleagues. This is another bipartisan action that is accomplishing something very significant, and I want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who supported the bill through its consideration.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Most importantly, I want to thank the many veterans, the veterans service organizations, advocates like Jon Stewart and John Feal, who never gave up on making this change happen. Because of their advocacy, our veterans will finally get the dignity and care they rightfully deserve.

If you want to take the measure of any nation, look no further than the way it treats those who sacrificed everything in the line of duty. Today, the Senate is making sure we treat our heroes the way our heroes deserve to be treated—with dignity, with gratitude for everything they have done to protect our way of life. Gone are the days when veterans will have to struggle to prove and fight to get benefits they deserve.

I thank my colleagues for their work, and I urge all of us to vote yes on this long-overdue legislation.

#### NOMINATION OF STEVEN M. DETTELBACH

Madam President, now let me talk about something that just happened in the Judiciary Committee.

As we await the completion of the gun safety bill, there is another step the Senate will take today to protect our communities from gun violence. We can move to confirm Steven Dettelbach as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

I want to thank Senator DURBIN and the Judiciary Committee for moving this nomination expeditiously.

Later today, I will move to discharge the nomination of Mr. Dettelbach from the Judiciary Committee after his nomination resulted in a tie vote. Based on his record and qualifications, Dettelbach unquestionably deserves bipartisan support, but either way, he is going to move forward.

The ATF has not had a permanent Director since 2015, so confirming Mr. Dettelbach is one of my top priorities before the end of June. We need a fully functional, fully staffed ATF in order for that Agency to fulfill its mission of keeping our communities safe from gun violence.

Obviously, the legislation we are talking about that is being negotiated is very important, but so is having a fully functioning ATF. It is critical we have a fully functioning, fully staffed ATF for the Agency to carry out its mission of protecting our communities from gun violence, and what they do is very, very important. Sometimes it is quiet. Sometimes it is not noticed. But their ability to deal with gun traffickers and so many others who poison our streets with illegal guns that take the lives of our children—the ATF is essential in stopping that, curtailing it, and having a strong, qualified nominee like Mr. Dettelbach will certainly help reduce the scourge of gun violence in this country, particularly because the ATF has not had anyone at the helm since 2015. So I am going to make sure his nomination moves as quickly and speedily through this Chamber as possible.

#### GUN SAFETY

Madam President, now on the other issue, the debate on gun safety, this week, the Senate is making progress on a subject that has frustrated this Chamber for decades: meaningful gun safety legislation.

Last night, I spoke with Senator MURPHY on the latest round of bipartisan negotiations. Both sides met well into the evening and will be meeting again this afternoon. The work is not finished. No one will pretend that has been easy, but both parties are still working towards a final product. I urge both sides to keep going at it. This is so important to the American people. I am hopeful they will come to an agreement on bill text soon.

Once we have the language for a gun safety bill, I am prepared to make it the next legislative matter considered on the Senate floor. We want to move quickly and decisively to make sure we don't let this opportunity slip away.

Just a month ago, very few could have predicted that this Chamber would make as much progress as we have on a gun safety compromise. Given our recent history, it is hard to blame Americans who feel hopeless that change can happen on this issue. But that is why you never give up—never give up—even after facing so many disappointments. No matter how many times gridlock has taken hold in the past, survivors of gun violence, gun safety activists, people who have lost loved ones, children, have fought and fought and fought. They have visited our office every year, many times. Because of them, we are closer to making real progress than we have been in a long, long time.

The work is not done, but I remain hopeful that we are going to get it done, and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for continuing their work towards a compromise.

#### JANUARY 6 HEARINGS

Madam President, now on the Big Lie, today, the House will continue its public hearings on the Capitol attack of January 6. I urge all Americans to tune in and listen to the strong case our House colleagues are presenting.

The dangers of the Big Lie transcend the Capitol attack. This week, many hard-right candidates, who deny the 2020 elections and have little faith in the fidelity of our elections, who may well move to undermine them, have won primaries and will be on the ballot in November.

If you want to know what our country could turn into if they win, look at what is happening right now in New Mexico. Right now, a county commissioner in that State is refusing to certify the results of his county's primary elections because of debunked conspiracy theories involving Dominion voting machines. The votes of over 7,000 people are now in jeopardy, and the State supreme court has been compelled to step in. This is the result of the Big Lie spread by Donald Trump.

He cannot accept the fact that he lost. His ego is so huge and infantile that he is undermining American democracy, and too many, often out of fear of Trump and the primary voter acolytes that Trump has, go along with this.

It is happening in too many States. It is a real danger to our democracy. In Nevada, for instance, secretary of state candidate Jim Marchant has said that if he had been in office in 2020, he wouldn't have certified Joe Biden's victory.

That is dangerous stuff. Do my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who go along with this realize that? This undermines the democracy, sacred to all of us—Democrat, Republican, Independent.

America needs to be watching what is happening in States like New Mexico and Nevada because if we are not careful, it will be a preview of greater horrors to come. It is not a partisan argument; it is simply about democracy versus authoritarianism. Many of the things said by some of these officeholders were said by people who then led their country to authoritarian regimes.

It doesn't matter if you are a Democrat or a Republican or an Independent; democracy is at risk if we elevate individuals who don't believe in the sanctity of elections.

I urge the American people, regardless of party, to reject these radicals in November because our democracy is literally—literally—on the line.

#### OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT

Madam President, finally, on the ocean shipping bill, today is an important day. President Biden will sign the Ocean Shipping Reform Act into law.

Shipping reform is exactly the kind of bill that can make a difference to the American people. It fights inflation. It relieves our supply chains. It will help small businesses and consumers alike.

Our ports need help. The cost of sending a container across the Pacific Ocean is up 1,000 percent. Who pays that? The consumer and the American exporter. Our ports need help. Our supply chains need relief. With today's signing, we can now say help is on the way.

I thank President Biden for signing this bill quickly. I thank my colleagues, Senators KLOBUCHAR, THUNE, and CANTWELL, for their leadership in the Senate. I thank Speaker PELOSI and my House colleagues for approving the bill earlier this week.

I would say to our friends in the media: No, this has been bipartisan. There hasn't been conflict, but it is important. Please pay some attention to it. Things are getting done to deal with the scourge of inflation.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

#### INFLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Before Democrats dumped \$2 trillion on the economy last

year, experts warned that such reckless spending would not just raise prices for working families, but could also trigger a full-on recession.

In February of 2021, for example, a prominent economist testified right here on Capitol Hill and said Democrats' runaway spending might back the Federal Reserve into a corner. It might leave the Fed no choice but to sharply raise interest rates. And that would not just slow down our economic recovery, but potentially actually shift it into reverse.

Sound familiar? That is exactly what has happened right before our eyes.

Yesterday, a few days after the far-worse-than-expected inflation report for the month of May, the Fed announced the biggest interest rate hike in 28 years—the biggest interest rate hike in 28 years. And they signal more increases may be on the deck soon. The Fed acted too slowly on the incorrect presumption that inflation would fade away. Now that it hasn't happened, they have to make up for lost time.

The stock markets that carry Americans' retirement savings have been in free fall. The S&P 500 has lost a full one-fifth of its value in just 6 months. Americans' consumer confidence just nose-dived to its lowest point ever recorded—worse than at any point during the 2008 recession, worse than the early panic over COVID.

The percentage of small businessowners who say they are optimistic about the near future has never been this low in the entire 48-year history of that survey. And signs suggest this may be just the beginning of the pain for the American people.

Just 3 months ago, the Fed predicted we would not have to see rising unemployment until 2024. Yesterday, however, they announced they now see unemployment increasing this year, next year, and—and the year after that.

Just between March and May, their official estimate for our country's economic growth in 2022 plummeted—listen to this—by 40 percent. It looks increasingly like Democrats may have driven America toward a full-on recession. They have driven our country toward a full-on recession.

The term "stagflation" was invented to describe the most painful economic conditions for workers and families. It means the worst of three worlds at once: High inflation, slow growth, and rising unemployment. Unless something changes—we all hope it does—this appears to be exactly the trajectory on which Democrats' policies have put our country.

The last time we had a unified Republican government, our policies created low inflation, robust growth, and record-low unemployment. Sole Democratic Party control has produced something quite different.

But, unbelievably, the same Washington Democrats who dug this hole seem unwilling to put away their shovels. They want to keep digging. With our economy trending toward a pos-

sible recession, some of our colleagues are trying to restart discussions about massive trillion-dollar-plus tax hikes.

It really beggars belief. Democrats spent 2021 trying to respond to inflation with even more—even more—reckless spending, and now they are spending 2022 trying to respond to a looming recession with gigantic tax hikes.

This is utter nonsense. It's unbelievable.

Democrats have quite likely inflated their way into a recession, and now they want to pile on historic tax hikes and make it worse.

In every poll, in every survey, the American people make their views of the Democratic economic policies crystal clear. For the sake of the country, let's hope our colleagues remember the first rule of holes, and stop digging.

#### ENERGY

Madam President, on a related matter, tomorrow President Biden will host the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate. Meanwhile, working Americans will continue to face the consequences of his disastrous energy and climate policies. While President Biden and his team have declared a holy war on America's domestic production, average gas prices have soared over \$5. By August, they are projected to hit \$6.20.

Diesel, which literally drives our economy, is now at an all-time high. Natural gas is up 30.2 percent; fuel oil is up 106.7 percent; groceries, which overwhelmingly rely on diesel semis to get to supermarket shelves, are up nearly 12 percent compared to last year.

These eye-popping numbers are the predictable results of Democrats' inflationary policies and specifically their war on affordable American energy.

Well, the American people continue to tell Democrats they are not interested in buying fantastical green boondoggles when they can barely afford the essentials today. According to one recent poll, more than half of Americans are very or extremely concerned about how grocery prices are affecting their household's financial situation. Nearly two-thirds feel that same way about gas prices.

But Washington Democrats are still in staggering disarray over how and even whether to clean up the mess they have made.

Some, like the administration's climate czar, John Kerry, are still in denial. He said recently: "We absolutely don't"—John Kerry—"We absolutely don't" need to ramp up oil and gas production. Instead, he insisted:

We have to transition to electric vehicles about 20 times faster than we are now.

Americans continue to report that just affording gas has become a daily hardship, but the former Senator from Massachusetts says to folks in places like Kentucky: The solution is just buy an expensive electric car.

Now, some administration officials are willing to acknowledge the problem, just not its source. The American

people continue to hear about a so-called "Putin price hike" even though gas was already up nearly 50 percent—50 percent—since President Biden took office at the time Russia launched the war. Some Members of the President's party seem more clear-eyed. Yesterday, one House Democrat said:

I'm calling on the President to sit down with domestic oil and gas companies and find a way to lower prices. . . . The President needs to bring everyone together.

That was a Democrat in the House.

But, unfortunately, the Biden administration still appears to be jaw-droppingly naive about the consequences of its war on affordable domestic energy. As energy prices continued to skyrocket earlier this year, the White House reportedly insisted the production could just be turned back on with the flip of a switch.

According to one analyst:

They thought shale oil production could grow sharply in the near term—like in a matter of months or quarters . . . They were shocked to learn that that's like asking for blood from a stone.

Of course, Democrats' misunderstanding hasn't stopped them from trying to use American energy producers as a scapegoat. Yesterday, the White House press secretary insisted: "We have done our part . . ." she said. "We need [oil companies] to act."

Really? That doesn't pass the laugh test.

In a letter yesterday, one of America's biggest domestic producers asked the Biden administration for three things: "Clear and consistent policy that supports U.S. resource development", "regular and predictable lease sales", and "support for infrastructure such as pipelines."

Notice that this is precisely a summary of what President Biden hasn't—has not been doing since he took office.

Since day one, the Biden administration has been outright hostile to U.S. resource development, frozen certain new development leases, and canceled a pipeline project that would have expanded efficient energy transport and created American jobs.

The American people are bracing for a very pricey summer, from the gas pump to the grocery store. And they know exactly who to blame.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I recently read an article published by a woman who is very credible on the issue of energy, which I would like to share after the statements recently made by the Republican leader.

The question is whether or not our production of crude oil during President Biden's Presidency was higher or lower than the Trump administration. I quote Heather Cox Richardson:

To encourage production, Biden's officials have issued more permits on federal lands than were issued in the Trump administration's first three years, at a pace that approaches [that of] George W. Bush's administration. Only 10% of all U.S. drilling takes place on federal land, but the Bureau of Land

Management confirms that more than 9,000 drilling permits on public land are currently approved. Not all would be productive if they were developed, and none of them could start producing immediately, but this undercuts the argument that gas prices are high because the Biden administration has choked off permits.

She goes on to say:

What appears to be driving U.S. gas prices is the pressure investors are putting on oil companies, whose officers answer to their investors. Limited production creates higher prices that are driving record profits. In a March 2022 survey of 141 U.S. oil producers asking them why they were holding back production, 59 percent said they were under investor pressure. Only 6 percent blamed “government regulations” for their lack of increased production.

Oil companies are seeing huge profits and are using the money for stock buybacks to raise stock prices. BP, Shell, ExxonMobil, Chevron, TotalEnergies, Eni, and Equinor will give between \$38 and \$41 billion to shareholders through buyback programs this year.

That is a little different picture than was just painted by the Republican leader.

There is some culpability here when it comes to the oil companies, and blaming President Biden is ignoring the fact that he has, on Federal lands, which, as written, account for a percentage of our production in this country, expanded permits beyond the levels offered by the previous administration. This is certainly a more complex issue than was suggested by the Senator from Kentucky.

#### GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. President, on another topic, I would say that we have learned a lot from COVID-19. We have learned that this particular pandemic targeted, more than ever, those among us who were up in years, the seniors. They were the most vulnerable to the attack of COVID-19, and many folks in their senior years were threatened by and some succumbed to this terrible pandemic. We knew that it was a problem for senior citizens and still do.

Yesterday, we had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee that called to mind the real question before us: What if this pandemic had targeted our children and babies? What if we knew that the next pandemic was going to make them particularly vulnerable? Well, I will tell you, I believe this country—rightly so—would rally behind an effort to do everything we could to protect our children from this looming, potential, cause of death.

Mine is only a hypothetical when it comes to pandemics, but it is not a hypothetical when it comes to the No. 1 cause of death among children and teenagers in America. The CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just announced within the last 2 weeks that the No. 1 cause of death is not a pandemic but guns, firearms, gun violence, and gun deaths.

Yesterday, we held a hearing in the Judiciary Committee on the leading

cause of death for children in America—guns. In 2020—the most recent year’s statistics that are available—more than 4,300 American babies, children, and teens died from gunfire. During the hearing, we heard from a chorus of witnesses: healthcare witnesses, law enforcement, community violence prevention. They agreed on one basic thing: that gun violence is traumatizing an entire generation of American youth. Lawmakers in Congress have a responsibility to stem this tide of violence.

One of the witnesses was a young college student from Northeastern University in Boston. He actually grew up on the West Side of Chicago. His name is Ernest Willingham. He isn’t 20 years old yet, but his testimony sounded like the testimony of a person who was wise in years. He has already experienced one gun-related tragedy after another.

Mr. Willingham told the members of our committee:

I have seen my brother, my father, my cousin and my best friend become victims of gun violence. . . . This is something that young people should never have to prepare themselves for, yet it remains the lived experience of so many children and youth around our nation.

He continued:

We are better than this as a country, and we can solve this crisis.

Then he made reference to one basic fact. He said:

Most kids who grew up with me spent more time attending funerals than weddings.

That is a sobering statement, and it puts into perspective not only the threat of gun violence and the toll that it has taken but also the trauma that is visited on so many who are affected by this gun violence. We think instantly of the families of the victims, but trauma goes far beyond that; it extends to families of witnesses and to so many others whose lives are affected.

Two weeks ago, in Chicago, Lurie Children’s Hospital convened a group of young people from gun-infested neighborhoods. They agreed to meet with me on a private, off-the-record basis. We closed the door, and I looked at their 20 or 30 faces and said:

Tell me what I need to know as a U.S. Senator about what it means to grow up in your neighborhood.

I can tell you that there was an outpouring of statements from every one of them, talking about how guns have become such a sad and tragic part of their lives and how many of them had either been shot or had lost a family member or a loved one or a friend to gun violence. And they talked about the basics.

One young man said:

Senator, we need home training.

I said:

What do you mean by “home training”?

He said:

We need parents to tell us what is right and wrong, to tell us what to do. There are no rules. The only rules I find are the rules of the gang’s on the street. I know what

their rules are, but I don’t know what the rules are in terms of my own life.

I think back on my childhood. Rules? Oh, I had plenty of rules, and most kids do: Clean your plate. Clean your room. Do your homework. Take out the trash. Walk the dog.

The rules were coming at me all the time. Then I went and attended Catholic grade schools, and, believe me, they had even more rules to play by.

The statements by many of these young people were that their lives were adrift in the earliest stages. Some of it reflects parents who are facing poverty, who are struggling to make ends meet. Some are working two jobs just to get enough money to keep food on the table. They can’t be at home and nurturing and guiding these young people as much as they should because they are struggling from paycheck to paycheck. That is a reality of poverty in these neighborhoods.

Some families aren’t that “lucky”—and I use that in quotes. Some are dysfunctional. They have one parent who is a drug addict and another parent who is inclined toward violence or alcohol, and the child suffers as a result of it.

The point I am getting to is this: That hearing yesterday on gun violence highlighted the reality of what life is like for too many kids in places around America, and it highlighted the importance of doing something.

We had a doctor there who was the chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She said that she sent out an email, in preparation for her testimony, to a number of pediatricians and said:

Can you share with me any personal experiences with kids who are victims of gun violence?

She received 300 replies, which we put in the record of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s. They were sobering statements by doctors of what they faced with kids who had either been victims of gun violence or who had witnessed it and were trauma victims as a result. That was the reality.

Ernest Willingham, whom I mentioned earlier, talked about what it meant to have this as an integral part of his life while growing up. He was one of the lucky ones. He was able to break free from this terrible experience and really start down the path toward a college education.

We had the chief of police from Phoenix, AZ, Chief Williams, who came in. She is a 23-year veteran of the police force and is the chief in a major city. She talked about guns and kids and what they face in her city, where she just recently had a number of her policemen who were injured in the line of duty.

She spoke to that and said:

Last night, there was a shooting, and luckily they survived or I wouldn’t be here today.

That is the reality of guns in America.

We focused with her on the guns like AR-15s that are showing up at these

shootouts and massacres. The AR-15 is a "semiautomatic" weapon, which means it fires ammunition every time you pull the trigger, but it can be converted into an automatic weapon, whereby you can hold the trigger, and it just sprays ammunition at people who are victims.

How many of these exist in the United States today, these AR-15 assault weapons that we are seeing in so many of these massacres and shootings? We are not sure. It is somewhere between 10 and 20 million—10 and 20 million.

I asked the pediatrician what kind of damage is done by these guns, and she told us: It is devastating.

Some of the stories that are coming back from these mass shootings now are horrific. I just even hesitate to repeat them, but they have been reported widely in the news—the damage that is done to these poor little bodies in the classrooms when these weapons are turned on them.

Now, there is no earthly purpose for such a weapon other than their use in the military—it isn't used for sport; it isn't used for hunting; it can't be used for self-defense very effectively—but so many, millions, are being sold across America.

From my point of view, we should be dealing with that issue directly, as well as high-capacity magazines that allow these to happen, but, unfortunately, we can't at this moment. We don't have the political will to do it in the U.S. Senate—50-50 divided. We do have the will to take up the framework, which is being worked on at this very moment. It isn't what I want to see, and it isn't what many of us want to see, but it is a step forward.

I commend the Senators—the Democrat CHRIS MURPHY and the Republican JOHN CORNYN—for assembling a group of some 20 Senators, Democrats and Republicans, who are working on this legislation. It is critically important that they are successful. I know they are having drafting challenges—that is common around here—but we have plenty of talented people, and if the Members, in good will, sit down, they can work out their differences. I urge them to do so.

Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL publicly support this undertaking. It is one of the rare bipartisan events in the U.S. Senate, and it is on the critical issue of gun safety. I hope that by next week, we can consider this on the floor.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN M. DETTELBACH

Mr. President, there is another matter that will come before us as soon as today, and it was a matter that was raised in the Judiciary Committee this morning.

Today, we can start by discharging from the committee a proven, battle-tested leader to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. His name is Steve Dettelbach. The Presiding Officer knows him well as he served as a member of his staff as

a detailee. He has an exceptional record.

You see, it has been 7 years since there has been a Senate-confirmed Director at ATF, and at a moment when guns are killing our kids at a devastating rate, this office cannot remain vacant any longer—7 years.

How many times have you heard the statement: "We don't need any gun laws. We just need to enforce the laws that are already on the books"? Well, one of the Agencies that have major jurisdiction is Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

It is no coincidence since it has been 7 years since there has been a person in charge of that Agency. You need someone to guide the Agency to enforce the laws to keep our streets safe. That is very basic.

Well, we made a gesture toward that this morning in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Today, we voted for discharge. The Senate will take a critical step toward confirming Mr. Dettelbach. He is the kind of leader our Nation needs to get a handle on the crisis of gun violence. Later today, we will have a vote on the floor here. I hope we can get bipartisan support for Mr. Dettelbach.

Members of law enforcement, mayors across America, and former Federal prosecutors all agree that it is time that this man, Steve Dettelbach, become the Director of the ATF. More than 140 former Justice Department officials, including multiple Trump administration appointees, have stepped forward to voice their support for Mr. Dettelbach's nomination. The Judiciary Committee has also received letters of support from multiple former Directors and Acting Directors of the ATF.

It is no surprise. As a career prosecutor, Mr. Dettelbach has devoted decades of his life to working alongside law enforcement, including ATF agents, to combat gang violence, gun crimes, and hate crimes. In every role he has held, Mr. Dettelbach has been squarely focused on protecting the lives of law enforcement officers and the families they serve.

In his own words:

Politics can play no role in law enforcement.

He has earned the trust of an amazing list of law enforcement organizations. Listen to the groups that support his taking on this job: The National Sheriffs' Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major County Sheriffs of America, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Women in Federal Law Enforcement, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, and many, many more.

When a mass shooter tears apart a community like Buffalo, NY, or Uvalde, TX, ATF agents are among the first Federal officers to respond. Let us not wait a minute longer in providing these heroic agents the leader they de-

serve. Yes, let's enforce the laws that are on the books. Let's put together the leadership of the ATF to make certain that is done.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for Steve Dettelbach's confirmation on the floor of the Senate today. It is timely, it is important, and it is long overdue.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes, Senator MORAN for up to 7 minutes, and Senator TESTER for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. ARMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I would like to take a brief moment to wish the U.S. Army a happy 247th birthday.

I had the special honor this morning to "fall in" with Secretary of the Army Wormuth, Army Chief of Staff McConville, Sergeant Major of the Army Grinston, many other Army leaders, and hundreds of soldiers for some morning PT.

I appreciated the opportunity to join in the Army tradition of a birthday formation run, and it was especially humbling to run through the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

Any time you are in Arlington—or any national cemetery in the States, like the Black Hills National Cemetery in South Dakota, or overseas, like the Normandy American Cemetery—you are reminded of the sacrifice and legacy of our Nation's warfighters. Every name and pair of dates on a headstone tells a unique story of selfless service to our Nation.

In running over the hills and around the turns this morning, you get a better sense of the magnitude of the more than 400,000 Americans who are honored at Arlington and the collective sacrifice of all of America's heroes.

Today, the U.S. Army proudly carries on the heritage and legacy established on June 14, 1775. Our soldiers and all our men and women in uniform stand guard around the world to protect our freedoms, and they make any adversary think twice about threatening them, as the U.S. Army has done for the past 247 years.

Thank you for all of your service to our country, your professionalism, and determination, and thank you for including me today. Happy birthday to the U.S. Army.

RURAL BROADBAND

Mr. President, as a longtime member and former chairman of the Senate

Commerce Committee and as a resident of a rural State, I have long been focused on expanding rural broadband access and ensuring that the benefits of the next wave of mobile broadband, 5G, are fully realized in rural communities.

Expanding rule broadband access has been embraced by Members on both sides of the aisle, and Congress has appropriated billions of dollars in recent years to ensure that rural communities are able to access fixed broadband. It is encouraging to see Members on both sides of the aisle supporting this goal, but there are problems. While, as I said, Congress has appropriated billions of dollars toward this goal, the Federal Government lacks an overarching broadband strategy.

As a recent Government Accountability Office report highlighted, rural broadband funding is spread out over 15 separate Agencies and more than 130 separate programs in our government. That doesn't exactly make for outstanding efficiency or coordination. What it does make for is wasted taxpayer dollars and slower progress in ensuring that our rural communities have access to broadband.

Last week, the Senate Commerce Committee's Communications Subcommittee, of which I serve as ranking member, held an oversight hearing on one of the leading Agencies charged with expanding rural broadband access and promoting wireless access, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or the acronym is NTIA. I appreciated Assistant Secretary Davidson coming to testify before the committee.

Last year, Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which provided billions of dollars to NTIA to deploy broadband services to unserved areas throughout the United States. At the time the bill was debated, I raised a number of concerns about NTIA's ability to effectively and efficiently manage such substantial funding, given NTIA's past history on expanding rural broadband services. The last time Congress provided NTIA with broadband funding—a fraction, I might add, of the funding it is now responsible for—the Agency struggled with implementation and ended up overbuilding existing broadband networks, resulting in billions of taxpayer dollars being spent with little to show. And I have to say, I have not seen a lot to convince me that NTIA will do a better job this time around.

Last month, NTIA released its Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment—or BEAD—Program. The notice contains a number of troubling components. To begin with, I am concerned that NTIA is planning to base its funding allocations on maps that don't accurately reflect which areas of the country are unserved. This creates a substantial risk of misallocating the funding Congress appropriated and, once again, overbuilding existing networks at the taxpayers' expense.

NTIA's notice also makes clear that when it comes to expanding networks, they are planning to favor certain applicants; specifically, government-run networks and nontraditional broadband providers—entities with no proven track record in deploying broadband networks.

What NTIA should be doing is taking a neutral approach that allows equal participation from all types of broadband providers, as long as they meet the technical, financial, and operational standards to deploy networks.

Finally, especially at a time of record high inflation, the last thing any Agency should be doing is pursuing extraneous political goals that will ultimately increase the cost for providers who are deploying networks. I am disappointed that NTIA, like other Federal Agencies under this administration, is seeking to score political points with certain constituencies—in this case, by leaning into net neutrality requirements, promoting burdensome labor standards, and focusing upon climate change initiatives.

NTIA's focus on requiring broadband providers to use a unionized workforce or project labor agreement not only puts providers that do not use union workforces at a disadvantage, but it is unworkable—unworkable—for providers in rural communities like those in South Dakota that simply don't have access to a unionized workforce.

Earlier this month, I heard firsthand from the folks who are building out networks in my home State of South Dakota about the challenges they face with respect to supply chain shortages and increased construction costs, and including unnecessary requirements in broadband contracts will only exacerbate that problem.

I will continue to urge NTIA to work with States to reduce, rather than increase, regulatory burdens so that the funding Congress provided could be used to provide broadband access to as many Americans as possible.

I also continue to work on other measures to expand broadband access in rural communities, including the Reforming Broadband Connectivity Act, which I joined colleagues from both parties to introduce last year.

This legislation will help guarantee a stable funding stream for the Federal Communication Commission's Universal Service Fund, which promotes universal access to broadband and other telecommunications services. And I am hoping—I am hoping—we can get this legislation enacted into law this year.

Having reliable rural fixed broadband services is also key in ensuring that rural communities are able to access the next wave of mobile broadband internet, 5G, and I am committed to smoothing the path for 5G services.

Mr. President, 5G offers tremendous potential for rural communities, whether it is better access to telehealth or the opportunity to implement precision agriculture. And we

need to ensure that we build out 5G networks not just in cities and in suburbs but in rural communities across the United States.

I have introduced a number of bills to help keep the United States at the forefront of the 5G revolution and ensure that 5G technology makes its way to rural communities.

My STREAMLINE Act, for example, would expedite the deployment of the small cells that are needed for 5G installation, while respecting the role of State and local governments in making deployment decisions. And, importantly, it would make it more affordable to bring 5G to rural areas by addressing the costs of small cell deployment.

On the spectrum side of the equation, this year, I introduced the Spectrum Innovation Act, along with the Communications Subcommittee chair, Senator LUJÁN, to free up additional midband spectrum for 5G deployment, an action that will simultaneously improve 5G coverage and bring in revenue for deficit reduction.

Since freeing up additional spectrum requires proper coordination between NTIA, the FCC, and other Federal Agencies, I joined Senators WICKER, BLACKBURN, and LUJÁN to introduce the Improving Spectrum Coordination Act to ensure that our Federal partners are effectively managing our Nation's airwaves.

On the workforce side of things, my Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act, which was enacted into law last year, is designed to help increase the number of workers enrolled in 5G training programs and identifying ways to grow the telecommunications workforce to meet the demands of 5G.

I will continue to work to support every part of the 5G equation—from physical technology to spectrum, to a 5G workforce—so that the United States can stay at the forefront of this internet revolution. I will also continue to make fixed broadband and 5G access in rural communities a priority.

Too often, rural areas, like those in my home State of South Dakota, have lagged behind when it comes to getting the most modern internet technology, and I am committed to ensuring that the full benefits of next-generation technologies make their way to rural communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

H.R. 3967

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you for that emphatic recognition.

In the next few minutes, the Senate will vote on the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022.

This is a significant—I would say historic—moment. This bipartisan legislation, not only is it significant and important because of the content, but it is also significant and perhaps historic because of the cooperation that has

been garnered to put this act together and presumably pass it and send it to the President of the United States.

This bipartisan legislation is the most comprehensive toxic exposure package the Senate has ever delivered to veterans in our country's history.

Generation after generation, Americans, one by one, have answered the call of duty with the promise that we—the United States of America, the citizens of this country—would take care of them and their families after their time in uniform. Yet generation after generation, veteran after veteran, these servicemembers returned home only to be met with a piecemeal process as they work to cobble together the care that they earned and the benefits they deserved from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans have spent years fighting bureaucracy to get the care they need, and, sadly, there are those who have been fighting, up to this point, who are no longer living, to receive the benefits that this legislation will provide.

Chairman TESTER, the Senator from Montana, and I made a commitment to get to this point today. I am proud that we are doing so together in a bipartisan way. And, most importantly, this bill will deliver healthcare and benefits to thousands of veterans who are ill due to their exposure to burn pits and other toxic exposures.

There is no doubt that the cost of taking care of our veterans is high, but the truth is freedom is not free. We say that. This is evidence that we believe that, upon the passage of this legislation.

There is always, always a cost to war. It is always high. It is always dramatic. It is always something that costs people their lives. But we make a decision when we send those service men and women to war that we are going to do what we said we are going to do and care for them. The decision is made when we send someone to war about whether we are going to spend money to care for them when they return. The cost of war is not fully paid when the war is over.

We are now on the verge of honoring that commitment to America's veterans and their families. Back home in Kansas, MG Lee Tafanelli said this legislation "will have a great impact in the lives of our veterans long after their service. The knowledge that the obstacles formerly in their way have now been streamlined will provide peace of mind as our veterans move on with their lives."

I spoke on Memorial Day at a cemetery in Kansas, and a Navy veteran came up to me after my remarks and said: I served in the Navy. My dad served in the Navy. We both encountered toxic substances, and we are fortunate we have no symptoms that cause any problems in our lives, but that doesn't mean we don't think about it every day; that what happens if we do have those consequences in the future and there is nothing there for us

and, more importantly, for our families.

This legislation helps provide some level of certainty. I am sure every member of our service, when they serve our Nation, recognizes they run risks, but I doubt that any of them believe that they are creating risks for their spouses or their children. They carry the burden for themselves, but there is also the necessity of caring for their families, particularly if they get to a point at which they cannot do so.

Not only will this legislation provide long-overdue healthcare and benefits to the 3.5 million post-9/11 veterans who were exposed to burn pits, but this legislation will deliver care for all generations of veterans, including Vietnam veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange.

I am at an age at which it would seem like the Vietnam war was a long time ago and we would have taken care of those who served, but we have those who served in Vietnam who are still waiting for their benefits.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson PACT Act would not be on the floor today without the hard work of numerous veterans service organizations, veteran families, survivors, advocates, and the veterans themselves who came to Washington to meet with Senator TESTER and with me and with every Member of the U.S. Senate, to have a conversation, to tell their story. And they are the most effective advocates there could be. And many of them, and others, testified before our Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

This legislation is not just a product of Senator TESTER's and mine; it is a product of so many. It is so much more. And perhaps—no offense to Senator TESTER, but perhaps our role is really insignificant when you look at the people who have encountered these challenges but used those challenges as an opportunity to fight not just for themselves but, in most instances, probably more likely to fight for other veterans in similar circumstances.

I thank them for their service. I thank them for their work in helping us deliver long-lasting solutions and comprehensive reforms for those who served. And I especially want to thank Heath Robinson's family, who turned their own loss and heartache into action. This bill will help many veterans like Heath face the challenges that he faced that ultimately ended his life.

I thank Senator TESTER, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. And for all the members of our committees, Republicans and Democrats, I remind my colleagues and I remind the American people that the original version of this bill passed the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee unanimously, with every Republican and every Democrat voting yes.

After the passage of that legislation, we worked further to find consensus but, more importantly, to find better solutions and a path forward that would allow us to be to the point we

are today. Secretary McDonough deserves our gratitude as well, and I thank him for his input, his testimony, and the numerous, numerous telephone and personal conversations. I appreciate his advice, and it made this bill better for veterans.

Once we pass this legislation, the real work of implementing it will fall to the Department of Veterans Affairs. But we as a committee and we as Senators need to make certain that we do the appropriate oversight, that we make certain that these are not just words on paper but that the results that we are looking for are finally delivered.

Too often, I think, the moment of glory comes on the passage of a bill or the press release announcing the passage of a bill, the signing of a bill, but whether or not it works still remains the most important aspect of our work. A lot of work remains, and the VA has significant challenges as it moves forward to help these veterans. The real work is still ahead of us, and I stand ready to do all I can to make certain that we are able to deliver the intended results contemplated by this legislation.

A long list of thank-yous to my colleagues, certainly to my colleagues on the committee, my colleagues in the Senate, but especially to folks in the VA community, the VSO community: Shane Liermann, Lawrence Montreuil—Shane is with the DAV; Lawrence is with the American Legion—Pat Murray with the VFW; Kristina Keenan, VFW; Cory Titus, MOAA; Aleks Morosky, WWP; Candace Wheeler, TAPS; Bob Carey, Independence Fund; Tom Porter, IAVA; Kaitlynn Hetrick, IAVA; Jennifer Burch, IAVA; Rosie Torres, Burn Pits 360; Jon Stewart; and Jon Feal.

And I thank the Kansas leaders who, over a long period of time—I don't know what year it was, but the Vietnam Veterans of America held a conference in Wichita, KS, which I attended, at which the topic was toxic exposure. And it has to be at least 10, 12 years ago. And I thank them for, at that point in time, sticking in my mind that there is work to be done.

And I appreciate other Kansans: Lee Hursey, who is the commander of the Kansas VFW; Jeremy Ehart of the Kansas American Legion; William Turner; Eric Owens; Lee Tafanelli; David Dennis; GEN Mike Dodson; Pat Proctor; Paul Chapa; COL Timothy Marlar; and COL John Buckley, all of whom are Kansans who are working on behalf of other veterans in our State to see that we get this right.

And nothing in this body gets done because Senators do all the work. Senators have ideas and occasionally a few words here and there, but we are surrounded by people who every day make those words and those thoughts come to life on a piece of paper called a bill. And my staff on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and in my office have been unending in their efforts to



get this right and to work to find an agreement that could become law. Lindsay Dearing leads that list; Asher Allman; Michele Payne; Tiffanii Woolfolk; Emily Blair Rubright; Kelsey Baron; Brian Newbold; Mark Crowley; Emily Brady; Brian Mann; David Shearman; and our leader, Jon Towers; and Tom Brandt; Angela Lingg; and Miranda Moore. And as to Senator TESTER, Tony McClain, his chief; and Simon Coon.

I appreciate the opportunity to be on the Senate floor at this moment for what I hope will be a resounding victory not for Senator TESTER, not for JERRY MORAN but for the veterans of America who served our Nation admirably, did what they were asked to do, and encountered things they should not have encountered, the consequences of which have lasted throughout their lives. We are here to fulfill a commitment and a promise, and we begin that, we move forward on that today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator MORAN for his comments. I didn't hear everything he had to say, but when I came in, one of the things he said was we may not be the most important people in this process. And he is 100 percent correct. We are simply the conduit that was utilized to get this bill put into law.

There are way, way too many people to thank on this legislation, and I am going to get to that. And I will forget a bunch of folks, and I apologize right now.

But the truth is, we today, the U.S. Senate today, has the opportunity to make history by passing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics—PACT—Act.

This is not a new issue. Generations after generations of Americans have gone to war backed by a promise that we made to them when they signed up that we would care for them when they got home. Unfortunately, that didn't happen in the case of toxic exposure. We failed them.

This bill is about righting a wrong that has been ignored for just way too damn long. It is about Will Thompson. It is about SFC Heath Robinson. It is about every American who has lost their lives through toxic exposures because of the duty that they have performed for this country.

Sadly, it is too late to do right by Will and Heath and so many others, but today, this body has a chance to do the right thing by their families and future generations of our All-Volunteer military by passing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act.

The days of ignoring the wounds from toxic exposure, wounds not seen until years after those days are gone—conditions like hypertension and MGUS found in veterans like Robert

Hunter, a proud Montanan who served in the Army as an engineering officer during the Vietnam war. Robert was exposed to Agent Orange during his service and contracted MGUS years later. He is one of the 66,000 veterans in Montana who would become eligible for relief under this bill—not to mention every post-9/11 veteran in this country who would automatically receive VA healthcare. This includes more than 3.5 million post-9/11 combat veterans exposed to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This bill would also remove the burden of proof for 23 presumptive conditions caused by military toxic exposures, from cancers to lung disease, and it would codify a more transparent framework to establish future presumptions of service connections to ensure future generations of veterans are treated more fairly than the last. And probably, most importantly, it will allow the VA to make the decisions on toxic exposures instead of an act of Congress.

In short, the PACT Act will allow hundreds of thousands of veterans across the country to access the VA care that they have been denied and give them the benefits that they have earned. Make no mistake, the VA will be given the tools it needs to hire more medical professionals and claims processors, establish more healthcare facilities and improve claims processing, ensuring we are meeting the needs of our veterans today, tomorrow, and in the future.

The bottom line is this country is very capable of recognizing the physical, obvious wounds of war—a lost limb, a chemical burn—and we are taking the steps to recognize the mental wounds of war, but we haven't been recognizing the toxic wounds of war, and that will end today with the passage of this bill.

As chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee—and I have said this many times to the veterans service organizations—I take my cues from them, the veterans they represent. When I first introduced the COST of War Act last year, together we set out with a clear goal, a goal to right the wrongs of decades of inactions and failure—by us, by our government—to provide all areas of toxic-exposed veterans the VA care and benefits they need and that they have earned.

We knew this was the only way to do this—was to put forth a package that took care of our past, present, and future veterans. I am grateful—and I mean this because folks always talk about good friends on the Senate floor. Sometimes, they mean it; sometimes, they don't. I mean it. Thank you to my good friend Ranking Member JERRY MORAN for working with me, with the committee, for creating an environment so our staffs could work together to create this new, bipartisan toxic exposure strategy.

And for my colleagues on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, particu-

larly my friends like Senator JOHN BOOZMAN and Senator SHERROD BROWN, thank you.

I am thankful for the leadership of President Biden and VA Secretary Denis McDonough, along with House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman TAKANO, and so many, many others who are here today.

This bill is the legislation we envisioned when we set out to right the wrongs of our toxic-exposed vets.

This bill recognizes the cost of war. It is the bill our veterans and our families deserve and are counting on and cannot wait any longer for. Veterans and veterans service organizations and advocates have understood this for a long time. And they have been incredible partners since the beginning, and I look forward to thanking each and every one of them in the days and the weeks to come.

I want to speak directly to them now: I am grateful for your efforts. I am grateful for your voices—for never taking your foot off the gas—and continuing to push Members of Congress to simply do the right thing.

I also want to acknowledge the countless hours put in by the staffs from both sides of the aisle—and Senator MORAN is exactly correct, we take credit for their good work; and they do good work—staff from my office, like staff director Tony McClain, as well as this guy right here to my left, Simon Coon, Dahlia Melendrez, James Cho, Janko Mitric, Tess Wrzesinski, Shauna Rust, Olya Voytovich, and Liz Timmons but also folks across the aisle, like Lindsay Dearing, Jon Towers, Asher Allman, Tom Brandt, Pat McGuigan, Michelle Dominguez, Dili Sundaramoorthy, and Mike Jones.

Look, by sitting down in a bipartisan way to get this bill crafted, we were able to have success and get the job done, and that is what the folks who sent us here expect us to do. America's veterans and their loved ones will be better off as a result of this work today, and the result of that will make this country a better place.

There is always a cost of war, and that cost is never fully repaid when the war ends. So I have got one question: Are we willing to show these millions of veterans that we have their back, that the U.S. Government has their back? Are we willing to admit that we didn't live up to the promise of veterans like Will Thompson and Heath Robinson?

But the fact is, I believe today will show that we can put party politics aside and honor America's bravest. We can honor the plea of Heath's 8-year-old daughter Brielle to "Fight for the heroes who fought for our country and pass my dad's bill, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson PACT Act." And we can begin settling our debts to millions of other veterans and their families today.

The last thing is, what I am going to close with, that the work is not over with, assuming this bill passes today.



The ranking member is 100 percent correct: We are going to have a lot of oversight to do to make sure that the veterans get the healthcare and the benefits that they have earned and that they deserve. That is the congressional intent that we have with this bill. So oversight will be critically important.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this is the greatest advance in veterans' healthcare in decades. It wouldn't have happened without JERRY MORAN and the amazing work of Chairman JON TESTER who persisted through so many different turns and twists and difficulties. Every veteran in America, every American, should give tremendous thanks to Senator TESTER and Senator MORAN.

I yield the floor and urge a vote.

VOTE ON H.R. 3967

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 230 Leg.]

#### YEAS—84

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murphy
Barrasso	Graham	Murray
Bennet	Grassley	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hagerty	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hassan	Peters
Blunt	Hawley	Portman
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Braun	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Casey	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shaheen
Collins	King	Sinema
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cornyn	Leahy	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Cruz	Marshall	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Warnock
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Ernst	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Moran	Wyden
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

#### NAYS—14

Burr	Lee	Risch
Crapo	Lummis	Romney
Lankford	Paul	

Rounds	Thune	Toomey
Shelby	Tillis	Tuberville

#### NOT VOTING—2

Daines	Wicker
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The bill (H.R. 3967) as amended, was passed.

#### HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act, is an example of what can happen when the Congress puts aside partisanship and comes together for the good of the country and, importantly, our veterans.

Each of us, in every State and in every congressional district across the country, has a friend, a neighbor, or a constituent, a veteran, or an Active-Duty servicemember, who has become sick or died from exposure to toxics while serving in the military. And for too many of those people, recognition of the connection between their illnesses and toxic exposures came too late.

Early in my time in the Senate, I heard from Vietnam veterans who were sickened by exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange. Too many of these veterans died before Congress pushed the Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize and treat their illnesses or compensate them for the disability caused by our own government's use of such a toxic substance throughout Vietnam and in other parts of Southeast Asia.

I hoped we would have learned from our mistakes there. I hoped we would learn from the veterans and civilians who suffered from radiation exposure when we tested the atomic bomb. I hoped we would learn from the veterans who came home from the first Gulf War with unexplained illnesses.

But just a few years ago, I watched my dear friend, BG Mike Heston, ravaged by pancreatic cancer, fight for the VA and the Department of Defense to acknowledge that his cancer was caused by exposure to the burn pits that had been used during his tours in Afghanistan.

Mike served as a Vermont State trooper for 26 years and for 33 years in the military, including in the Marine Corps Reserve and the Vermont National Guard. He served his State and his country without question. When he got sick, he should not have had to spend his precious remaining time fighting for the government to acknowledge what caused his illness.

But Mike did fight. Mike fought to ensure that his family, his two wonderful children, Kelsey and Keegan, would be cared for if he succumbed to his illness. He and his wife June also fought to make sure that other veterans would not have to endure what they did, that they might get an earlier diagnosis, that they might not have to spend any of their precious moments fighting for the benefits they earned.

After Mike passed away in 2018, June continued and expanded the fight.

Joining her in Vermont were Staff Sergeant Wesley Black, who died last year of colon cancer at the age of 36, leaving behind his wife Laura and son Ronan; Pat Cram, widow of Sergeant Major Mike Cram, who died of prostate cancer at the age of 47; and many others who through their experience with friends or loved ones were determined to make sure that things would be better for those who followed.

As we stand here today prepared to enact one of the most sweeping packages of veterans benefits and healthcare measures in modern history, I am thinking of Mike and June, of Kelsey and Keegan, of Mike and Pat, and of Wesley and Laura and Ronan. And I know that each Senator voting yes today is thinking of people in their States and districts who are sick or who have died as a result of exposure to toxics while serving our country.

Their stories are meaningful, and they, themselves, ensured that their sacrifice is meaningful, too. And I hope that this time we will learn from our experiences with toxic substances and hold the Department of Defense to a higher standard in the future.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 969, Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Mark R. Warner, Edward J. Markey, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jeanne Shaheen, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-

SMITH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 231 Leg.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

#### NAYS—43

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Burr	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Portman	

#### NOT VOTING—5

Daines	Romney	Wicker
Hyde-Smith	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays 43.

The motion was agreed to.

#### NOMINATION OF ANA ISABEL DE ALBA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this work period, the Senate will continue to confirm highly qualified, diverse nominees to the Federal judiciary.

First on the list is Judge Ana Isabel de Alba, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

A San Joaquin Valley native, Judge de Alba has served as a Superior Court Judge for Fresno County, CA, since 2018. She has presided over thousands of hearings and more than seven bench trials before the court's Criminal Misdemeanor Division, the Juvenile Justice Division, and the Environmental Quality Act Panel.

Prior to her judicial service, Judge de Alba practiced for 11 years at a Fresno-area law firm, where she became partner in just 5 years and specialized in business, employment, construction, and personal injury law. In addition to her expansive litigation practice before California State courts, Judge de Alba handled many administrative law trials before a State agency as well as a Federal jury trial.

Judge de Alba earned her B.A. with highest honors and her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley.

The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Judge de Alba as "Qualified" to serve on the Eastern

District of California, and she also has received the strong support of her home State Senators, Mrs. FEINSTEIN and Mr. PADILLA.

With her record of fair-minded judicial service and years of litigation experience, Judge de Alba will serve her home district well as a Federal district court judge.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 919, Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 232 Ex.]

#### YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

#### NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—4

Daines	Warnock
Hyde-Smith	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as we await completion of the gun safety bill, today, the Senate is taking another important step to protect communities from gun violence, moving forward with the nomination of Steven Dettelbach, to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In a few moments, I will move to discharge Mr. Dettelbach's nomination from the Judiciary Committee. After that, I am going to make sure his nomination moves through this Chamber rapidly.

The bipartisan gun safety legislation currently being negotiated is crucially important but so is having a fully staffed ATF. And my colleagues, listen to this: We haven't had a Director of ATF since 2015. Gun violence is ripping through the Nation, killing so many, and we still don't have a Director of ATF. That is just outrageous, at a time when we need one more than ever.

At a time when Americans are sick and tired of our country's gun violence epidemic, we should be sprinting—sprinting—to confirm someone whose job would be precisely to keep Americans safe from gun violence, and that is exactly what the new ATF Director will do.

The ATF may not always capture the spotlight, but it is vital in stopping gun trafficking, in preventing illegal possession of firearms, and making sure our kids can't get their hands on dangerous weapons.

It is still so confounding to realize we haven't had somebody there because people have blocked it since 2015. An organization as important as the ATF absolutely needs to have a Senate-confirmed Director in place, and though we haven't had one in 7 years, we are going to change that very, very soon.

Having a strong, qualified nomination like Dettelbach will certainly help reduce the scourge of gun violence in the country.

So, once again, after I move to discharge Mr. Dettelbach, I am going to make sure his nomination moves rapidly through this Chamber. We need to fill this vacancy that has been blocked by the other side far too often.

Now, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on the Judiciary being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2340

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor once again today to seek unanimous consent for the passage of the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2021.

I say "once again" because a little over a month ago, I came to the floor seeking unanimous consent for this same exact bill, which was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee last December with overwhelming bipartisan support and whose namesake is Daniel Anderl, the 20-year-old son of U.S. District Court Judge Esther Salas.

Judge Salas is in the Gallery today, hoping we can come together as a body to deliver real solutions to honor her family by ensuring that no Federal judge or their family experience the same violence that she and her family faced.

Mr. President, 1 year, 10 months, and 27 days ago, her son Daniel was brutally murdered by a gunman who targeted Judge Salas for her gender, her ethnicity, and because he could not accept her judgment in a case that reached her court. Every single day since July 19, 2020, Judge Salas and her husband Mark have endured the immense grief of burying their only son.

No parent should have to experience such a devastating loss. Yet, in the face of so much pain, Judge Salas has channeled this into purpose, embarking on a personal mission to increase the safety and privacy of her fellow judges and their families.

The murderer was able to carry out this horrific hate crime using publicly available information, tracking down Judge Salas to her home in New Jersey, gravely injuring her husband, and murdering Daniel in cold blood when he answered the door.

As I said the last time I came to the floor seeking unanimous consent, no parent should have to experience such a devastating loss. But in the months since then and now, our country has seen the tragic results of inaction. On June 4, a retired county judge in Wisconsin was shot and killed in his home by a gunman who appeared before his court, and just 4 days later, a man was arrested near Justice Kavanaugh's home in Maryland after being found with a gun, a knife, and a plan to kill the Supreme Court Justice. Reports suggest the perpetrator found Justice Kavanaugh's address online.

We cannot take these events as isolated incidents. The brutal murder of Judge Salas's son, a horrific killing of a retired county judge in Wisconsin, and the attempt on Justice Kavanaugh's life, demand that Congress act to protect those who sit on the judiciary. Simply put, we must prevent any other judge from having to endure the threats and senseless violence that these families have experienced.

After the horrific tragedy Judge Salas and Mark suffered, Senator BOOKER and I made personal commitments to honor Daniel's legacy through action. We told her we would not rest until we enacted greater protections for those who serve on the bench to protect any other judge from having to endure the senseless violence Judge Salas experienced.

And it is important to protect this branch of our government because we want them to render decisions that are free from fear—free from fear—that they will render impartial justice free from fear of what may happen to them as a result of their judgment. We can make progress on that work today in this Chamber.

The bipartisan bill I seek unanimous consent for is an effort I am proud to lead with 12 of my colleagues, including Senators BOOKER, DURBIN, GRAHAM, KENNEDY, CRUZ, and GRASSLEY. Our bill will protect the personally identifiable information that assailants have used

to target judges and their families. It is a commonsense measure that would authorize the U.S. Marshal Service to monitor online threats and deter future attacks. It is so common sense that it was voted out of the Judiciary Committee with strong bipartisan support. I am talking about a 21-to-0 vote in the affirmative. It is so common sense that it should build on the work the Senate just did a month ago when it fast-tracked important safeguards for Supreme Court Justices and their families.

I will say it again. Nearly a month ago, the Senate acted here in mere minutes to increase protections for Supreme Court Justices—protections that were proven to be necessary when police apprehended Judge Kavanaugh's would-be assailant.

Yesterday, our colleagues in the House of Representatives voted to pass that bill. Today, we should take steps to protect all Federal judges. There is simply no explanation or justification to protect Supreme Court Justices while delaying legislation to protect judges at every level of the judiciary who face the same, if not greater, risks.

No judge in America should have to fear for their lives and the safety of their family as they work to uphold the Constitution, our democracy, and ensure all people have equal justice under the law. We have seen the consequences of inaction over the previous month. But we have an opportunity to act in this moment and advance our bipartisan bill, the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act, which has continued to garner support.

This isn't a partisan issue. This bill is not about right or left; it is about right and wrong.

Once again, I ask my Senate colleagues to let us honor the life and memory of Daniel Anderl with decisive action and results. Let's do the right thing to honor Daniel's legacy and unanimously pass this legislation named after him.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for the Senate to act to protect Federal judges.

In the past few years, the growing use of political violence has endangered elected officials, police officers, flight attendants, school board members, election workers, and judges. We all must condemn all violence and threats of violence against public officials in the strongest possible terms, regardless of whether it comes from the right or the left.

Last week, news broke that an armed man was arrested near the home of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. This man made it clear to law enforcement that he desired to kill Justice Kavanaugh. Importantly, court documents showed that the gunman outside Justice Kavanaugh's home said he found the address online.

This week, the House approved a bill that unanimously passed the Senate

last month and would give the Supreme Court Police greater discretion to protect the Justices' families. I am glad that this important legislation is headed to President Biden's desk.

But it has been over 6 months since the Judiciary Committee unanimously reported the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act. This bill was first introduced by Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER in response to a tragic incident in which a disgruntled litigant found the home address of Judge Esther Salas on the internet, went to her house, and shot and killed her son.

The bill is directly responsive to the threats that Federal judges face, including the threat to Justice Kavanaugh. It would allow judges to safeguard their personal information from being posted on the internet and would empower the judiciary to monitor online threats. We have tried to pass this bill in the past, and it has been blocked by at least one Republican Senator. The bill's sponsors have negotiated changes to address these concerns, and I am hopeful that Republican objection will be lifted today.

The threat to Justice Kavanaugh and the tragic death of Daniel Aderl underscore the need to pass this bipartisan bill quickly and get it signed into law so we can protect all Federal judges and their families.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 190, S. 2340; further, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Menendez substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, for a year and a half, we have been offering my colleague a compromise in the passage of this bill. We could pass this bill today, immediately. All we have been asking is that it not only protect Federal judges but protect Members of Congress as well. I haven't heard a cogent or even any argument for why it couldn't.

It is a very simple compromise. To pass things unanimously takes compromise. It takes people coming together and people agreeing. But there hasn't been any movement; there hasn't been any compromise; and I am still open. We can pass this today to include Members of Congress.

If recent years have taught us anything, it is that members of the legislative branch need protection as well as those in the judiciary. That was clear in 2011 when Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was tragically shot while she was doing the most important part of her job—meeting with constituents.

Words cannot express how happy and inspired I was to see that Congresswoman Giffords was in the Chamber with her husband, Senator KELLY, when he was sworn in as a Member of this body. Well, words also cannot express the pain felt by the families of the people who were killed that day and wounded. That should have been a wake-up call to protect Members of Congress and, in doing so, to better protect the people around them.

Yet, just a few years later, a shooter nearly killed Congressman STEVE SCALISE during a practice for the charity baseball game. I was there. A young man was shot 10 feet from me. I said at the time that our lives were saved by the Capitol Police. Had they not been there, things could have been much worse.

Extending the provisions of this bill to Members of Congress would better protect us and our families and our constituents. I have been offering this for 2 years. My amendment, which I will offer through unanimous consent, simply extends the same protections that it would offer to the judicial branch to the legislative branch.

This is not a new request. In December of 2020, when we discussed this bill on the floor, I offered this compromise. I said I would work together with the other side to try to get a bill that we could pass. But we haven't gotten anywhere. If we want this to pass, let's compromise. Let's come together and figure out a way that we can get this to pass.

I know of no argument or no constituency that is coming to Washington, saying: We don't want Members of Congress to be protected. There is no such constituency. There is no such argument, and there is no reason we couldn't pass this today. It has been almost 2 years. Let's pass this bill today. As I have said over and over again, I support this bill and the provisions, and I don't believe it ought to be blocked merely because Members of Congress also need protection.

With that being said, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator modify his request to include my amendment to the Menendez substitute amendment, which is at the desk; that the amendments be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the modification?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I think the points that the Senator from Kentucky is making are worthy. We are facing a reality right now wherein there are lots of threats that are increasing against public officials all around our country, and I understand that.

This is not a bill that Senator MENENDEZ and I just wrote and brought to the floor. This is a bill that we worked through the committee proc-

ess. It was a long and arduous process that was done in a bipartisan manner. During the discussion that the committee had, the point that the Senator from Kentucky brought up was brought up as well. There is a real concern about the safety and security of the Members of this body. But with the understanding and the commitment that there would be a bipartisan effort to work on this issue, every Senator on the Judiciary Committee said we should let this go for right now. This bill has been vetted; it has been worked over in a bipartisan manner; and it is ready to pass.

Threats on the Federal judiciary have gone up 500 percent. I will grant you, threats on Members of Congress have doubled, but the threats on the Federal judiciary are rising, and we saw that in the case of Justice Kavanaugh. This body thought it enough not to hold up the protection of Supreme Court Justices in order to protect the 535 of us, and we passed a bill to protect the Supreme Court Justices.

So here we now have a bill that has been vetted in committee, that has been worked on in a bipartisan fashion, and has come out, and we have a commitment. For the Senator from Kentucky to say that nothing has been done is not right. We now have Senator TED CRUZ and Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR working a bill through committee, through regular order, to make sure that we address the concerns that he is having.

This is my concern: Threats on the judiciary have gone up and are significantly higher than on this body. To grind this bill to a halt right now puts at risk members of the judiciary when we have the power in this body to protect our brothers and sisters in that branch of government.

Why would we stop when there is good will on the Judiciary Committee to work on the concerns?

There are two people who are committed to this bill, and there are verbal commitments from everyone. To stop this today creates a window of vulnerability that we know is real because we just saw a threat on a Supreme Court Justice.

For the sake of mercy, for the sake of caution, for the sake of the protection of the people in the Federal judiciary, let's pass this bill. I commit myself to joining with Senator TED CRUZ, to joining with Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR, to joining with Chairman DURBIN and with Ranking Member GRASSLEY, who have also spoken of their willingness to work a bill through regular order. That is what we should be doing.

Our job as Senators, if anything, first and foremost, is to protect the lives of American citizens. We have a bill that is widely bipartisan, that has proven to be urgent—a bill with a name of a young man who was slaughtered in his home. To hold this bill up is cruel. It is creating risk and jeopardy to people who serve in the judiciary. It is wrong. It is wrong. It is wrong.

I ask my colleague, with all humility and with all compassion and empathy, to please let this go. I commit to him that I will fight and work with the bipartisan coalition that is working on ways to protect the people in this body. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the modification?

The senior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, for all of the reasons that Senator BOOKER just mentioned and with an equal commitment to Senator PAUL to work with Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator CRUZ, who are working on a bill to protect Members and who look to advocate for the Senator's language to be included in that legislation, the Senator could have done this on the Supreme Court Justices, but he didn't.

So, at this point, I will have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the original request?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, we have been trying for a year and a half. Our staff has offered to meet with the opposition's staffs. We have not had one meeting. They have not accepted a meeting much less a compromise—a year and a half.

This could pass today by simply accepting this. There is a promise to do it at a later date when we have waited a year and a half? A year and a half went by because no one would meet with us. We have not had one meeting. We have offered to meet with the staffs of both of the authors of this, and we have not been granted a meeting. There has been no discussion of this between staff and no discussion of a compromise.

We would take a compromise. I don't understand. There has been no argument made today as to why Congress couldn't be added to this bill. They could have added this to the bill or talked to us over a year and a half. No one has talked to us. Other than to come for the public theater, no one has tried to get this thing passed.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The senior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I know the hour is late, but I am unaware of any such request, and I am unaware of our not being willing. Of course, we are willing. As a matter of fact, Judge Salas is here, and she tried to see Senator PAUL to make her case. He wouldn't give her the time of day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I literally turned to my staff and asked: Has Senator PAUL's staff reached out to us at all?

That is not the case.

Then, to characterize us as the opposition, we are not in opposition to this bill. We are trying to protect Federal judges as is the unanimous vote of the Judiciary Committee.

So this is very frustrating that we should stop this for the Supreme Court Justices—the Senator has no objection to that—but, for some reason, not for the other members of the judiciary. I just find that problematic.

I am willing to meet with the Senator. I am not in opposition to his bill. The meeting which would be had, I will do but with the two sponsors of the bill to protect the U.S. Senate. But to hold up the protection of other fellow citizens because we are not getting protection, to me, does not mark the nobility of this body and the self-sacrifice of this body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield back all time on the motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

The yeas and nays have been previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 233 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Portman	

#### NAYS—41

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

#### NOT VOTING—7

Cramer	Kennedy	Wicker
Daines	Rounds	
Hyde-Smith	Tuberville	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The nomination will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, first, let me say that I am glad to see the successful discharge of Steven Dettelbach's nomination. I have known him since he was a detailee for the Department of Justice to the Judiciary Committee. I found him one of the hardest working, most talented, honest, and evenhanded people I knew. I was happy to support him for U.S. attorney in Ohio. I can understand why so many law enforcement organizations backed him because of his values there. I will have more to say when he is confirmed, but it is a good move.

#### NOMINATION OF BETH ROBINSON

Madam President, Vermonters are no strangers to making history, and in November 2021, one Vermonter in particular made history again: the U.S. Senate confirmed Beth Robinson to a seat on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She assumed her seat on that bench days later. I could not be more proud. Vermont has one seat on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, so we always try to send our best.

Judge Robinson embodies Vermont's values: her commitment to justice and equality and her compassion for her fellow human beings. She has also proven to be an exceptional jurist, one dedicated to the rule of law above all else. There should be no doubt that she brings that same excellence to Vermont's single seat on the Second Circuit, as a successor to my dear friend, the late Judge Peter Hall.

Since Vermonters first elected me to the U.S. Senate, I have worked hard to ensure that Vermont's best and brightest represent our State on the Federal judiciary. In 2004, I recommended Judge Hall, then Vermont's U.S. Attorney and a Republican, to serve on the Second Circuit because he was the most qualified. During his 17-year tenure on the panel, Judge Hall was a fine jurist. He was fair and kind to all litigants before him, and was always humble. His passing, at just age 72, was a loss to not just Vermont, but also to the Federal judiciary at large.

In 2009, I proudly recommended Christina Reiss to be a judge for the District Court of Vermont. We have a very small district court with a State of our size. With her confirmation, Judge Reiss became the first woman to serve on the District Court of Vermont. And, like Judge Hall, she has served as a model of fairness and impartiality on the bench ever since.

Judge Robinson is a trailblazer herself. As a tireless champion for LGBTQ rights, she successfully litigated the landmark Baker v. Vermont decision, which led to Vermont becoming the first ever State to enact civil unions in the United States. Beth's advocacy served as a blueprint for the successful advancement of LGBTQ rights across the country, securing her place as one of the first pioneers in the national movement for LGBTQ rights.

Her smart and steady approach and her unimpeachable reputation won her

allies across the political spectrum in Vermont. In 2011, she was appointed by Governor Peter Shumlin to serve as a justice on the Vermont Supreme Court—that is a five-member court—a position to which she was confirmed unanimously by the Vermont Senate. She became the first openly gay Vermont Supreme Court justice, breaking yet another barrier. Now, today, Judge Robinson is the first openly gay female judge to serve in our Federal circuit courts.

While on the Vermont Supreme Court, Judge Robinson seamlessly traded her advocate's cap for that of an impartial jurist. She is a consensus builder. Her unwavering commitment to the neutral application of the law was second-to-none on the Vermont Supreme Court; it is a commitment I know she brings with her to the Second Circuit.

When I recommended to President Biden that he nominate Beth Robinson to the Second Circuit, there was such an outpouring of support from all corners of Vermont. The membership of the Vermont Supreme Court—justices appointed by both Democratic and Republican Governors—signed a strong letter of support for her nomination. They were joined by prominent Republicans and Democrats from all around the State, underscoring just how widely respected she was for her reputation as an impartial and independent jurist.

When Judge Robinson was confirmed in the Senate with bipartisan support, I celebrated. Judge Robinson is a Vermonter who has dedicated her life to the causes of justice and equality. She is a Vermonter who embodies our State's highest ideals, who brings fairness, independence, and integrity on the Second Circuit.

Next week, along the shores of Lake Champlain, friends, family, State leaders, fellow lawyers, and many more Vermonters will gather to celebrate the investiture of Vermont's newest judge on the Second Circuit. Vermonters can be assured that Judge Robinson will continue to be guided by the same principles that have brought her this far. Marcelle and I are two Vermonters who are proud that, once again, we are breaking barriers and making history, now with the investiture of Judge Beth Robinson on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

#### STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I want to talk a little bit about the whole idea of loan forgiveness, student debt forgiveness. I have spoken many times on the floor about the importance of higher education—both college education and apprenticeships and other kinds of work preparation. I was the first person in my family to ever graduate from college, and later was the president of the university. And it is important, there is no doubt about that.

I have often also talked about one of the reasons I think our system works so well is in post-World War II America, we have not tried to run higher education; we have tried to encourage and support higher education.

You could use your student benefits, whether they were student loans or VA benefits or other benefits, at any accredited institution, and the Federal Government doesn't decide what is an accredited institution.

I think the way that we have found that balance has been really important for higher education. I think it is why we have the best higher education in the world, but I think the balance is one that we ought to be thinking about maintaining.

We should be concerned when we begin to get into that balance in a way that the government does more than it should do or, frankly, less than it should do.

This is the 50th anniversary of the Pell Grant Program. I have been a big supporter of Pell grants. I know you have too.

And during the time we have worked here together, we have expanded Pell grants to year-round Pell grants. One of the great ways to keep college costs down is to finish. If you have got a pattern that is working, particularly if you are a first-time college student in your family or an adult that has gone back to school, if you have got something that is working and you can keep it working, we ought to do that.

There was about a 10-year period where we had two semesters of Pell grants and then there was a summer without Pell grants, that didn't really work out all that well. And every higher education person I know believes we did a really great thing by going back to year-round Pell.

We have also increased the Pell grant award. In fact, in the last 7 years, we have increased the annual individual award by over \$1,000—\$1,120. We have reinstated year-round Pell.

The Pell grant is targeted. It is targeted to people who need help going to school. When we were talking, I think very wrongly, about free higher education—which I think would really be expensive if you had free higher education and the government became the payer. I have said the Pell grant is really the way to adjust that.

If the Pell grant is not high enough, Congress can raise it. If the income levels are not high enough, if you had to have higher income levels or lower income levels to get the full Pell or partial Pell, Congress can do that as well.

I think the one thing that would be a mistake here would be to ask the taxpayers of America to now pay the loans off of other Americans who made those loans. The President is talking about the potential, at least the administration is, of forgiving up to \$10,000 in student loans for everyone who has a student loan and makes less than \$150,000.

You know, a lot of Americans make less than \$150,000. I think the median

family income in America today is under \$70,000, but, suddenly, for those who make under \$150,000, we would be giving them \$10,000. And what did they get for that \$10,000?

They went to school. They got an education. They had choices they made as they did that, and we will talk about that in a minute. And also the legal problems here. You know, the President has said in the past that he didn't think he had the legal authority to forgive these loans. The Speaker of the House has said in the past that she didn't think the President had the legal authority to forgive these loans.

And by the way, there is a way to get the legal authority—I will talk about that in a minute, too—coming to you and I with a proposal to give them the authority to do that.

Even the New York Times Editorial Board says that loan forgiveness is—this is their quote—“legally dubious, economically unsound, politically fraught, and educationally problematic.” Those are pretty good reasons not to do it. The best one would be the “legally dubious” one, and the President himself has thought that was the case in the past.

You know, 87 percent of Americans don't have a student loan. The President is telling them, frankly, we are going to forgive the loans for the 13 percent that the other 87 percent don't have.

People who decided not to go to college wouldn't get that \$10,000, neither would those who avoided loans by attending a more affordable school, working harder part time, doing the things that lots and lots of people have done to get through school.

The same is true of people who have gotten out of school, and as they are paying off their loans, they have sacrificed vacations or better cars or bigger houses or other things to pay the student loan that they agreed to pay back when they took it.

So the President's plan disproportionately would benefit people who are in the upper income group, the top 40 percent of American households hold 60 percent of the student loans.

The bottom 40 percent have less than 20 percent of the student loans. If you were going to talk about this at all, maybe we should be talking about the bottom 40 percent of incomes, not essentially the top 40 percent of incomes, which an across-the-board forgiveness of debt—and, by the way, that \$150,000 would generally be in that higher percent.

Student loan forgiveness under the President's plan would largely benefit people who, frankly, you could argue, just don't need the benefit as well as many other American families and American individuals do.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York estimates that student loan forgiveness could be as much as \$320 or \$350 billion. That is on top of the \$100 billion that we already have cost the system by stepping back, maybe for



too long, but certainly stepping back during COVID, and telling people they didn't have to make their loan payments.

To put that in some perspective, that amount of money, \$320 billion and another \$100 billion, would fund the entire Pell Grant Program for about a decade and a half.

So we ought to think about what we are doing here, how we are doing it. I think this plan would actually not drive college costs down; it would logically drive college costs up because colleges, just like students, would be told, when people make these loans, pay the school for the education they are getting, there is a good chance they won't have to pay it back, and there is a good chance we would have more income during this period of time.

It is more likely that you would have higher college costs and you would have people borrowing more money and borrowing it quicker than they currently do because we actually would be setting the precedent that there is a real chance you won't have to pay this back.

That is not a good precedent to set. What Americans really need right now is relief from the crushing inflation we see, not more bad policies that put more money into the economy and drive inflation to an even greater height.

President Biden has been bragging, frankly, about how strong our economy is and how low unemployment is. Well, if that is true, why do we need to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on a program that is unfair, that disproportionately helps upper income Americans? You know, it is either the strongest job market since World War II, which the President said just recently, or he has also said that this economy is the strongest economy we have ever had.

It is either that, or it is an economy in such rough shape that people can't pay their loans. Now, it really can't be both. And we are sending all kinds of messages here we don't need to send and, frankly, I think the administration shouldn't really want to send.

People made the decision to invest in their education. They borrowed money to do it. The initial plan was that people would borrow money, and as they paid it back, that money would be available for the next generation of people who wanted to borrow money.

If that had worked out that way, we would still be working off some of the first dollars that went into these student loan payments and student loan programs.

If we say that this select special group of people who happen to have the exact kind of debt, at this exact moment, don't need to pay it back later, I think that is the more logical thing that would happen. What if we say that this group doesn't have to pay their debt so maybe we should figure out other groups shouldn't have to pay their debt?

If it is a good economic policy not to pay your student debt, what if we de-

cide we are not going to pay people's car loan debt, or we are not going to pay people's mortgage debt, or we are not going to pay people's credit card bills if they are somehow out of control?

There are ways to deal with that in the legal system, but government forgiveness is not one of them. The same arguments really apply to forgiving those debts as would apply to forgiving college debts.

If the President thinks it is a good idea, as I mentioned before, he could write a piece of legislation, hand it to one of his friends in the Congress and let us work through the process. Let's make the case as to why these debts should be forgiven.

Let's debate which other competing priority is less important than forgiving these debts. You know, we have spent a lot of time acting like the money is not money that you have to take from somewhere else to use for a current purpose. And I think we are all realizing just how untrue that is.

The President hasn't sent that legislation up. In fact, the President in his budget didn't even suggest that loan forgiveness should be part of his budget. It is not in legislation. It is not in the appropriations budget. It is not a priority in anything the administration has put out there for us to debate and talk about.

We just had a hearing this week with the Secretary of Education about the education budget request. There was nothing in that request about specific student loan proposals. I really hope that the administration will pause, will think about this, will understand the overall impact of effectively suddenly deciding we are going to put \$321 billion or so dollars back into the economy that otherwise would be coming back into the Treasury as the debt repayment that those individuals have agreed to do.

We have got ways to help people go to school. We have got ways to debate whether or not this is a good priority to forgive loans, but I take the President's original position, which is the President doesn't have the authority to do that.

I agree with the Speaker of the House's original position that the President doesn't have the authority to do this. If the President wants to make the case, let him make it right here, and that will be a debate that I think would be worth having.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN LOHRKE

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I want to thank my colleague from Missouri. And I will just mention here in the Senate his leadership on so many issues are really going to be missed. Maybe he will reconsider his decision to leave this august body, which is going to be a lot less—a lot less of an institution that thinks hard about these difficult issues when he is gone.

So I want to thank Senator BLUNT for all he has done. He is a great friend of mine, so we are going to miss him.

It is Thursday, and once again it is an opportunity for me to talk about our Alaskan of the week.

Now, I know that our pages—the new pages, they are going to really realize this is probably one of the most exciting, interesting speeches of the week. Some of our friends in the media even like it because it is end of the week. I get to brag about Alaska and talk about someone who is doing something really great for our State, maybe their community, maybe the country, maybe the world, right?

We have all kinds who do this.

I always like to talk a little bit about what is going on in Alaska first.

So it is amazing how quickly the seasons go by because it is almost summer solstice in the State. That is when the Sun rarely sets across any part of Alaska and the State is filled with life, filled with energy. You can feel it when you come up. Hopefully, we get a lot of tourists this summer. I know we are going to get a lot. A lot of people want to get up to Alaska, particularly after the pandemic. You can feel it in the air when you are there, this sense of energy and excitement.

So our tourists are there now. They are seeing spectacular scenery, wildlife, glaciers, our salmon-choked streams. They will be able to hike through thousands of miles of State and Federal parks, climb mountains, fly through the skies, and some are even there to watch baseball. Yes, baseball.

Now, maybe not the Braves, but still good baseball. Now, I know that is going to sound odd to some people. Now, wait a minute. Going up to Alaska to watch baseball probably isn't the first thing that comes to many people's minds when they think about Alaska.

But diehard American baseball fans know that Alaska has played a fundamental role in America's pastime. They know how important Alaska summers are and have been for decades, taking young college students with raw but exceptional talent and growing them under the midnight Sun into seasoned professional Major League Baseball players.

This is the Alaska Baseball League, one of the premiere amateur collegiate summer baseball leagues that anybody plays anywhere in America.

Let me give you just a few—and I mean a few—of those who have come up through the Alaska Baseball League. It has produced some of Major League Baseball's most well known All-Stars, including Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, Tom Seaver, Dave Winfield, and Randy Johnson, just to name a few.

The Alaska Baseball League is sometimes composed of five teams, sometimes six—two teams in Anchorage, one in Palmer, one in Chugiak-Eagle River, one in Kenai.

And then there is a team, a very famous team, in Fairbanks—the oldest

and most storied of them all—which I am going to focus on today.

It is the Fairbanks Goldpanners; and the team's general manager, who is our Alaskan of the Week, John Lohrke, makes the baseball magic of Alaska happen.

So, first, a few words about John's background. He was raised in a baseball family. His father, Jack Lohrke—Lucky Lohrke, as baseball fans might know him—was a World War II veteran who landed on Omaha Beach 6 days after D-day, fought his way across Europe, survived many near-death experiences in combat and even back home; hence the name "Lucky."

After the military, Jack played baseball as a third baseman for the New York Giants and the Philadelphia Phillies.

After Jack Lohrke retired, his family moved to California, but, as I said, baseball is in the Lohrke family's blood.

Our Alaskan of the Week, John, had an older brother, who was drafted by the Red Sox, and John himself got into the game administratively. As a college student at Santa Clara, he began helping his college team behind the scenes.

In 1980, the Santa Clara coach was going to Alaska to coach the North Pole Nicks. John thought that that sounded great and asked if he could come. He did, he fell in love with Alaska and stayed, like so many in our State.

He managed the Nicks for 7 years, then was the president of another team, the Oilers, on Alaska's beautiful Kenai Peninsula; then it was back to the interior part of the State, where John stayed involved with baseball as a board member of the Goldpanners.

In 2016, he became president of the board, and now he is the general manager of the Goldpanners in Fairbanks, the person in charge of making it all happen. And what a responsibility and what a team and what a history and what a legacy of excellence John has been part of.

Since its founding in 1960, the Goldpanners have had over 211 players that have gone on to the major leagues. Isn't that remarkable—211 players? A pipeline into the major leagues from Fairbanks, AK. Who knew? And that doesn't include the countless others who went on to be coaches or general managers or scouts.

The current Cleveland Guardians manager played for the Goldpanners. The current pitching coach for the Red Sox is also a Goldpanner alumnus. As I mentioned, the Goldpanners are one of the premier pipelines into the major leagues.

One of the highlights of the season in Alaska, something that is happening very soon—actually, this Tuesday—is when the Goldpanners play their most famous game. It is the Midnight Sun game, and it is played every summer on the summer solstice.

The tradition of the Midnight Sun game in Fairbanks goes way, way back.

The first one of these games was played in 1906. Americans have been playing midnight baseball in Alaska well over 100 years, and now this game is famous—worldwide. It is a must-do bucket list game for baseball enthusiasts all across America. Thousands of people, many of whom come from across the globe, will gather for this game this Tuesday, as they do every summer in Fairbanks.

Now, this game is a culmination of a dizzying array of activities that occur in Fairbanks. Right now, parties, street festivals, a famed Midnight Sun Run. Fairbanks—a great city. My wife was born and raised there—is known for its spirit, generosity, and on the summer solstice weekend, that spirit explodes. I will be heading there tomorrow. I am going to partake in some of these festivities, including taking in a Goldpanners game and maybe, as I usually do, join the many runners in the Midnight Sun Run, where I have been known to bring up the rear of all the runners. We will see what happens.

But for Tuesday night's Midnight Sun game this year, the Goldpanners will be playing the San Diego Waves. The game starts at 10 p.m. in Growden Park and goes until the wee hours.

With Fairbanks just 150 miles south of the Arctic Circle, the Sun just begins to set in the north a little bit as the game gets underway but never fully goes down under the horizon, and as the game ends, the Sun is actually starting to rise again.

As one sports writer put it: "It is the stuff that baseball dreams are made of."

And it is never dark. And throughout its century-long history, artificial lights have never been used ever—not once.

John Lohrke, our Alaskan of the Week, understands how important that particular game is to the larger culture of baseball, not just to Fairbanks and the interior. He understands how important the Goldpanners team is for all of Alaska, for Fairbanks, but for baseball writ large.

Since starting in as a manager, he has put more money into the stadium to spruce it up. There are a lot of pictures of some of the great alumni there that I mentioned earlier in my remarks. He is constantly in touch with members of the business community who help sponsor and support the team.

He is in charge of getting housing for the 24-member team and the coaches, many of whom are talented athletes who come up to Alaska from the lower 48 for the summer.

He is in charge of transportation needs. He is in charge of the vendors and ticket sales and the beer garden. He is in charge of making all of this run smoothly for Fairbanks, for the team he loves, and for the love of baseball.

"I love Fairbanks," he said. "And I love baseball. It's in my blood," and this is where it happens.

So thanks to all the Goldpanner players and the community that sup-

ports the team. Thank you, John, for all you do to make it happen to bring us together to keep baseball alive. Congratulations for being our Alaskan of the Week.

(Mr. WARNOCK assumed the Chair.)

#### TRIBUTE TO LIZ BANICKI

Mr. President, I just talked about our Alaskan of the Week. I am going to mention another Alaskan who deserves really, really great praise. It is with a heavy heart that this week Team Sullivan will be losing a critical member of our staff in the wonderful staffer Liz Banicki, who is moving on to the private sector to help veterans, a group she has worked tirelessly for during her time in my office.

Liz is from Eagle River, AK. She is a Chugiak High School graduate. She graduated from the University of Portland with a degree in political science and German studies. She received two Fulbrights to study, first in Germany and then Austria, but her heart has always remained in Alaska.

She interned for the late, great Congressman Don Young before joining my campaign in 2014, my first election. She did a great job. Then she came to Washington with my team, and she is a member of what we call in our office the OG—been there from the beginning.

Liz's story is a story of success, and it has been an honor to watch her hard work and all she has done for me, my team, and most importantly, Alaskans.

She began with focusing on veterans and then expanded her role to take on foreign policy and homeland security and trade and fisheries.

In the process, she became one of the most impressive staffers in the whole U.S. Senate—I am a little biased, but I think it is true—on all of these diverse issues. It is a marvel listening to her explain, for example, fish import trade codes—so many of which she knows by heart.

She also understands and has worked the power of networking that has helped her do her job so well. She knows countless people in think tanks, the private sector back home, in embassies, and in the White House; and that has helped her get the job done for Alaska.

That is Liz's ethos: Getting the job done.

Now, we all know these jobs take a lot of hours. Liz puts in those hours. I can't tell you how many nights I have left the office 9:30, 10 p.m., and I will walk past Liz's office—she is still there working in front of her computer, on the phone, making sure our veterans get the help they need; working on banning Russian fish from being imported to the U.S.; assisting refugees trying to get out of Afghanistan, which she worked tirelessly on; working on my bill to deter China from invading Taiwan—I could go on and on and on.

Now, we all know, having staff, they will push back on occasion when they don't agree with the direction of their boss. It is something that can be difficult but necessary. And I don't think

that anybody would accuse Liz of being shy from pushing back. She knows her mind, and she speaks it, and she has done an exceptional job in my office; and most importantly, she has helped thousands and thousands of Alaskans.

So I just want to thank her for her dedication to her State, her country, and to our office. We are going to miss her very much.

Good luck, Liz. You will always be a part of "Team Sullivan."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a piece of legislation with a very long name: the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, also known as the PACT Act—P-A-C-T, PACT Act.

This historic legislation will improve and expand access to VA healthcare to our Nation's veterans, including upwards of 3½ million post-9/11 veterans. It is going to save lives.

Let me say that again. It is going to save lives and, hopefully, a lot of them. It is going to better ensure that our Nation lives up to the promise from President Lincoln's second inaugural address. You recall, he said "to care for those who have borne the battle"—to care for those who have borne the battle.

During his first State of the Union earlier this year, President Biden called on Congress to prioritize taking care of our veterans who were exposed to burn pits and other toxic materials while serving overseas in a number of theaters, Iraq and Afghanistan among them.

Today, I am proud to say that Congress has answered that call, as well as the call of our Nation's veterans service organizations, affectionately known as our VSOs. Those VSOs, veterans' advocates, and military families, many of whom have lost their loved ones, have organized and fought for this bill for years.

President Biden likes to say "all politics is personal." He also says that all diplomacy is personal. I think he is right on both accounts.

This issue is personal for our President, and it is personal for me as well as it is for hundreds of thousands of other American families. MAJ Beau Biden, Delaware's former attorney general, served in the Delaware National Guard for more than a decade, including a yearlong deployment to Iraq on Active Duty.

I was privileged to have served as the commander-in-chief of the Delaware National Guard for 8 years during my time as Governor, and I have enormous respect for the men and women who serve today and have served in the Delaware National Guard.

Over the past two decades, I have attended countless deployment ceremonies in New Castle County, and

Dover as well, for our soldiers, airmen, and their families and also assemblies when we welcomed them home, safe and sound.

Like many military parents at these sendoffs and welcome-home ceremonies, the Bidens did not know when their son would return. They didn't know for sure if he was going to make it back when our Nation sent him off to Iraq. I believe it was in late 2008. And they did not know, even if their son did make it back, whether he would carry with him the physical and emotional wounds of war that we sometimes can sustain.

As it turned out, Beau Biden, a young man I had known ever since he was a little kid, appeared to make it home back to Delaware healthy and whole at the completion of his tour in 2009.

I didn't know it at the time, but Beau and his unit spent several months at a place called Camp Victory and Joint Base Balad in the shadows of toxic burn pits that operated for 24 hours a day.

Several years later, in 2015, at the age of 46, Beau Biden would pass away after battling aggressive brain cancer. We couldn't prove it then, and to be totally honest, we can't prove it absolutely today; but the sudden onset of terminal cancer may well have been the result of toxic exposure while he was serving overseas.

This story is all too common amongst veterans of the post-9/11 generation, including SFC Heath Robinson, for whom this bill is named. A member of the Ohio Army National Guard, Sergeant First Class Robinson was deployed to Kosovo, where he experienced prolonged exposure to burn pits.

Before I go any further, let me just take a moment to describe what a burn pit is. Burn pits are large areas of land—oftentimes bigger than a football field—that are used to burn a number of things including trash and other waste products at military installations overseas. The waste is oftentimes soaked in jet fuel and then set ablaze in open-air burn pits, releasing toxins into the air in the surrounding area.

Waste burned in these pits includes chemicals, includes paint, includes medical and human waste, includes metal and aluminum cans, plastic, rubber, ammunition, just to name a few of the things. Exposure to the smoke that resulted from these burn pits often caused servicemembers to experience burning of their eyes or throat, as well as difficulty in breathing, and rashes, too. The toxic smoke could be contaminated with lead; it could be contaminated with mercury and irritant gases that could negatively impact an individual's lungs, liver, and stomach.

As many as 3½ million servicemembers, including Sergeant First Class Robinson, were exposed to toxic burn pits while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan or some other country.

After his service, Sergeant First Class Robinson was diagnosed with a

rare autoimmune disorder and stage IV—stage IV—lung cancer. His oncologist said that the rare stage IV cancer that he had been diagnosed with could only have been caused by prolonged toxic exposure. And yet, for years, healthy, young veterans like Sergeant First Class Robinson have continued to contract rare cancers and diseases. They then come home, only to fight a new battle: a battle that involves endless paperwork and claims, all to prove a service connection that almost certainly did exist or does exist.

Sergeant First Class Robinson died last year. He left behind a wife, Danielle, and a daughter who at the time was 6 years old. Her name is Brielle.

Brielle actually wrote a note to me, not in cursive but printed, and it looks like it was printed with a crayon. Here is what the note essentially says: "Vote yes to my Dad's bill"—or vote yes for my Dad's bill.

Well, Brielle, if you are at home and watching this today, I want you to know that I am going to take your advice, and I have taken your advice. And I hope one day to meet you and your mom. And thank you for being involved in a very good cause and for sharing your Dad with all of us.

Please know that your dad's service was a gift to our country and that the bill—the piece of legislation that bears your father's name—is going to make a positive difference not for a few people, not for a few military families, but literally for millions of military families.

My own generation of Vietnam veterans had a similar experience to toxic exposures as the post 9/11-generation of veterans. I have been privileged to serve our country in my State in many different roles, but there is no greater privilege than serving in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve for a total of 23 years after the Reserve duty.

After graduating from Ohio State right at the height of the Vietnam war in 1968 on a Navy ROTC scholarship, I would later serve three tours on Active Duty in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war as a Naval flight officer. My squadron, a unit of the Seventh Fleet, flew a wide variety of missions, including low-level surveillance operations off the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia, searching for, among other things, infiltrator trawlers disguised as fishing boats attempting to resupply the Viet Cong in their efforts to overthrow our ally, the government of South Vietnam.

Following my time on Active Duty, I spent another 18 years as a Navy P-3 Aircraft mission commander in the Naval Reserves. Barely a month after flying my last P-3 mission in the summer of 1991 and retiring as a Navy captain, I led, at the behest of then-President George Herbert Walker Bush, I led—I was privileged to lead—a bipartisan, six-Member congressional delegation of Vietnam veterans back to Southeast Asia.

Among our six Members was Congressman Pete Peterson, a former Air

Force pilot who was shot down over North Vietnam and spent years as a POW in the "Hanoi Hilton." He later would become the U.S. Ambassador to a united Vietnam.

The six of us went to Vietnam because veterans service organizations were convinced—because they were convinced that hundreds, maybe thousands, of MIAs, missing in action, from the Vietnam war were being held in captivity in that part of the world. We believed that their families deserved to know for sure, with certainty, to have closure in finding out what happened to their loved ones whose bodies were never recovered.

Like many of my colleagues, I come from a military family. My family knows what it is like to lose a loved one to war. My mother's youngest brother, my Uncle Bob, Robert Kidd Patton, died in 1944 at the age of 19 during a kamikaze attack on his aircraft carrier in the western Pacific.

My grandmother is a Gold Star mother. My Uncle Bob's body was never recovered or returned home to the country he served. My family never knew what it meant to have, really, a sense of closure or finality. They never gave up. My grandma never gave up on him coming home someday. He never did.

So it means something to families like mine for our government to heed that moral obligation and stand up for military families still waiting to see their son or daughter brought home and brought home safely. It is that moral obligation to our MIAs and their families who led us to travel back to Vietnam in 1991, when we brought with us—and actually presented to the new leader of united Vietnam—we brought with us a road map from President George Herbert Walker Bush to normalize relations with Vietnam.

Among other things, the road map first called on the Vietnamese, who were meticulous recordkeepers—meticulous recordkeepers—to provide access to Vietnam's war museum records as well as to its archives so that our investigators might be able to search for clues to help resolve the mysteries of our MIAs' disappearance.

With the strong encouragement of our six-Member delegation and the tireless efforts of two Members of this body, Senator John McCain and Senator John Kerry, the Vietnamese decided to take this step, and telecommunications were restored between our two countries—and, later, a full diplomatic relations.

That same moral obligation that led us to make progress in Vietnam leads us here today. Our moral obligation extends beyond providing closure to families of the fallen. It extends to the veterans and families who need healthcare, who are still dealing with the wounds of war—both visible and invisible—long after they leave the battlefield.

The same year we traveled to Vietnam, Congress came together and

passed the Agent Orange Act to care for the hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans who were exposed to that toxic herbicide in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war.

I believe that many of us would agree it took too long—far too long—for that bill to be enacted. Finally, after too many heart and nervous system complications, deadly cancer diagnoses, and even birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans, Congress did the right thing.

The bill before us today also took too long to be enacted. Today, Congress has once again done the right thing. As I mentioned earlier, over the last two decades, throughout Iraq and Afghanistan, too many of our veterans lived and worked alongside these massive toxic burn pits that I talked about earlier.

Hundreds of thousands of square feet of open-air disposal sites where plastics and jet fuel, chemicals and human waste, were burned daily producing toxic black plumes and bringing harmful chemicals into the lungs of unsuspecting servicemembers. The time has come to take care of these veterans—those who have borne the battle.

This legislation, the PACT Act, will enhance and expand VA healthcare and benefits for toxic-exposed veterans. Specifically, this bill will provide VA healthcare to the estimated 3½ million post-9/11 veterans who have experienced toxic exposures.

This bill establishes a presumption of service connection for 23 conditions that are related to toxic exposures and improves the process by which the VA may add presumptions in the future. Additionally, the bill will expand VA research on toxic exposure. It will provide toxic exposure screenings at appointments, and it will provide additional training to VA healthcare workers and benefits personnel.

I have spent a considerable amount of time discussing the importance of this bill. Others have been here today before me and earlier this week. I am proud to have supported it. I know my colleagues feel the same way. Having said that, I also believe that we may have missed an opportunity to consider some amendments that would have improved the bill and, importantly, would have paid for its considerable pricetag.

In addition to being a recovering Governor—my colleagues have different names to describe me; a lot of them call me a recovering Governor, and I am a recovering Governor—I am also a recovering State treasurer of Florida. I have long believed that, if something is worth doing, then it is worth paying for. I will say that again. If things are worth doing, they are worth paying for. I understand that taking care of our veterans is a cost of war, but these costs should be paid for.

That is why I filed an amendment to have the Department of Defense identify savings to pay for the cost of this bill.

I also filed amendments that address Albert Einstein's definition of "insanity." Einstein is famous for saying many things, but one of those is with regard to insanity. He describes insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result."

What does that mean?

In this instance, it means that, if servicemembers are repeatedly being exposed to toxic chemicals across new generations, we have to do something on the front end to reduce toxic exposures instead of always playing catch-up decades later as we are doing now.

That is why we should be giving the Department of Defense the tools it needs to track toxic exposures more closely. Our servicemembers deserve the ability to report toxic exposures in realtime and to be protected from them. I believe these commonsense ideas may actually provide long-term savings for the taxpayer and will lead to healthier outcomes for our veterans.

Finally, while we are not offsetting the cost of this legislation today, it does not mean that we shouldn't provide vigorous oversight of this new funding. That is why I filed another amendment to enhance the requirement that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide annual spending plans to Congress as well as to require both the VA inspector general and the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on implementation—an important step.

My hope is that one or maybe all of these ideas could be included in future legislation later this year, and I look forward to working with our colleagues on improving this important bill as we move forward.

In having said that, let me close by just reiterating what I said at the beginning. This is a historic bill for our Nation's veterans. It does right by an entire generation of veterans who have defended our Nation over the past two decades. It is going to bring millions of new veterans into the VA for their healthcare, including mental health care. These new benefits, which our veterans earned through their service to our Nation, are going to make a real difference for our veterans and their families.

As the last serving Vietnam veteran now serving in the U.S. Senate, I am proud to have supported this bill.

I want to thank and commend our colleagues who lead the Senate's Veterans' Affairs Committee—Senator TESTER and Senator MORAN—and their staffs and others for working together to shepherd this bipartisan bill through the legislative process.

I want to thank our veterans service organizations—those VSOs I mentioned earlier—and the countless advocates who helped to make this legislation possible.

I want to thank the young lady who wrote this note. She was kind enough to send it to me and to encourage me to support this legislation named after her father.

With that, I look forward to the President of the United States signing the PACT Act into law very soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 973, 974, and 997; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jaime E. Lizarraga, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2027; Mark Toshiro Uyeda, of California, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2023; and Naz Durakoglu, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs) en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

*To the Secretary of the Senate:*

PN1975, the nomination of Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

DICK DURBIN

#### JUNETEENTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this Sunday, we commemorate the 157th Juneteenth, a portmanteau of June and the nineteenth, which celebrates the liberation of the last remaining enslaved Black Americans at the end of the Civil War. This is our newest Federal holiday, which we will observe on Monday, but African-American communities have celebrated Juneteenth as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, or Black Independence Day as far back as 1886 in Texas.

On this date in 1865, U.S. Army Major General Gordon Granger arrived at a Confederate outpost in Galveston, TX, where he delivered the news of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation to 250,000 still-enslaved Texans. Many United States Colored Troops—USCT—who fought for freedom and to preserve the Union, accompanied Granger. Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which granted Black Americans their freedom, 2 years earlier. Robert E. Lee had surrendered to U.S. Army Lt. General Ulysses Grant 2 months earlier at Appomattox.

In my home State of Maryland, abolitionists Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman paved the way for future civil rights activists by risking their lives to help bring enslaved people to freedom. Their work has had a profound impact on our community and on Maryland's rich cultural history.

African-American history is American history. We all must learn the lessons of Juneteenth and understand how our lives have been changed because of it. We cannot celebrate the freedoms brought forth on Juneteenth without acknowledging there was slavery in the United States of America. Slavery is a part of American history. The Constitution originally protected slavery through the fugitive slave clause and three-fifths clause.

We cannot and should not hide from these facts or try to erase them from our history books or suppress them in our classrooms.

In Maryland, we often look to the work of Justice Thurgood Marshall, who spent his life fighting for the rights of Black Americans and trying to reverse systemic discrimination. Marshall, arguing before the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* and later serving as the first African-American Associate Justice on the Court, set a precedent for future generations of Black men and women that even the highest honors are within their reach. The Senate recently confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson to be the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

While Thurgood Marshall was an inspiration, his work of reversing sys-

temic racism is far from complete. It is our responsibility as a Nation to continue the work Justice Marshall and activists like him started. Though we have made progress, the fight for racial justice will never be complete until we have achieved equitable treatment for people of all races and can truly guarantee equality of opportunity. The pursuit of racial justice will ensure that we live up to our Nation's promise of equality for all people, regardless of the color of their skin.

Countering systemic racism and advancing racial justice should be a daily occurrence. We must learn from our past, actively challenge our own prejudices, and take conscious steps to dismantle the racist structures embedded in our society.

On President Biden's first day in office, he signed an Executive order entitled "Advancing Racial Equity and Support from Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." The President directed Federal Agencies to assess how their programs and policies might be perpetuating systemic barriers to opportunity and to propose Equity Action Plans that contain specific Agency commitments to redress inequities and promote equitable outcomes in communities.

The Biden-Harris administration has already taken numerous steps to expand opportunities for African-Americans. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law permanently reauthorizes the Minority Business Development Agency for the first time and enhances its authority. The administration has stepped up its efforts to combat racial discrimination in the housing market and to help African-Americans get fair treatment when it comes to staying in their homes and on their farms and receiving disaster assistance after tragedy strikes.

In particular, as the pandemic exacerbated preexisting racial disparities, the administration took strong steps to improve outcomes for African-Americans with respect to education, healthcare, and transportation.

As we commemorate this historic holiday, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the many lessons of the story of Juneteenth and commit ourselves to the pursuit of racial justice and reconciliation. If we do that, individually and collectively, Juneteenth truly will become a Jubilee.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING VERYL SWITZER

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Mr. Veryl Switzer of Nicodemus, KS.

I stand before you today to mourn the loss of a Kansas State University great, Veryl Switzer. While many may know of Veryl through his football career, his legacy and impact on the University extend far past the gridiron. He

came to Manhattan, KS, on a football scholarship in 1950 and would go on to be one of the most well-rounded players in the history of the program. An All-American from 1951 to 1953, Veryl led the team in practically every statistical category on offense and, to this day, still ranks in the top 10 for many punt-return categories. Veryl's athletic achievements were not limited to the football field, as he was the Big Seven Indoor Long Jump champion in 1952. Following an illustrious career for the Wildcats, Veryl would be selected by the Green Bay Packers with the fourth overall pick in the 1954 NFL Draft.

Veryl led the NFL in punt return average during his rookie season, but would step away from the Green Bay Packers after just 24 games to serve in the U.S. Air Force. After his time in the military, Veryl played two more seasons of professional football in Canada. He would then go on to work for the Chicago Board of Education for 10 years before making his way back to Kansas State University. Once back at K-State, Veryl developed the first university wide student-minority program, where many campus groups such as the Black Student Union, Ebony Theater, and United Black Voices still exist due to his efforts. A member of both the K-State athletics hall of fame and the football team's ring of honor, Veryl's legacy will continue to live on through the hearts and minds of his family, friends, and K-State fans across the country.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful life and career of Mr. Veryl Switzer. A true inspiration to the State of Kansas, fighting ever fighting for a Wildcat victory.●

#### RECOGNIZING BEANS CAFE AND BAKERY

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Beans Cafe and Bakery of Dry Ridge, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

The road to entrepreneurial success is rarely a straight and narrow path, as Richard Hayhoe and his wife could tell you. The couple moved to northern Kentucky from Canada in 2010, intent on flipping houses for a living. However, their dream of entering the housing market did not turn out as imagined and in 2011, opportunity presented itself. As Richard looked around his adopted hometown, he saw a struggling doughnut shop with a big "For Sale" sign posted, and decided to act. Thus, Richard Hayhoe's Beans Cafe and Bakery was born.

Opened in late 2011, Beans Cafe and Bakery offers some of the finest confections available in Kentucky. Between fresh donuts, muffins, and a va-

riety of other pastries, customers are not left wanting, as his store provides just about any morning pick-me-up one could hope for. In addition to keeping their ovens busy, Beans Cafe of course keeps their coffee pots full so that their regular customers can enjoy a fresh cup on their morning commute. Despite their name, Beans Cafe and Bakery is not just a popular breakfast site; it is a one-stop shop for any meal: breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert. Beans Cafe boasts a delicious menu of sandwiches on their signature bread, wraps, soups, and salads. Beans Cafe and Bakery also has plenty of options for dessert, including ice cream and hand-spun milkshakes perfect for a warm summer evening spent with family and friends.

Soon after Beans Cafe and Bakery opened their doors, residents of Dry Ridge came in droves. Oftentimes, Richard found their reputation preceded them, as local hotel and bed-and-breakfast owners insisted their travelers make time for Beans Cafe. When the Ark Encounter exhibit opened nearby in 2016, that new flood of visitors helped to propel an already growing business into a new phase of expansion, moving to a different location right off the highway. Beans Cafe and Bakery has only continued to grow since then, even opening up a separate kitchen space in order to meet the ever-growing demand for their delicious baked goods.

In addition to their excellence in the kitchen, Richard Hayhoe has made Beans Cafe and Bakery a place for community involvement, hosting a monthly get-together for Christians wanting to engage in the realm of public policy and local government. Beans Cafe and Bakery also offers classes for junior bakers, providing a fun and educational atmosphere for young children to learn about the baking craft.

When Richard Hayhoe came to Kentucky, he ventured south from his native land to pursue a career that he soon realized was not all that it was chalked up to be. Instead of giving up on Dry Ridge or Kentucky entirely, he stayed and made his home by opening a business that caters to its residents. Richard Hayhoe is the embodiment of the type of perseverance inherent to small business owners. That is why Beans Cafe and Bakery has seen such success; it is led by a dedicated and hard-working team who know how to treat their customers right. Congratulations to Richard and the entire team at Beans Cafe and Bakery. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 4160. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to grant the Supreme Court of

the United States security-related authorities equivalent to the legislative and executive branches.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4431. A bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 16, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 4160. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to grant the Supreme Court of the United States security-related authorities equivalent to the legislative and executive branches.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Sarah A. L. Merriam, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Lara E. Montecalvo, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Tiffany M. Cartwright, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Nina Nin-Yuen Wang, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Phillip A. Talbert, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4415. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize and modify the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4416. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students; to the Committee on Finance.



By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4417. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to address matters relating to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4418. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for investment in Community Development Financial Institutions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4419. A bill to require small, medium, and large hub airports to certify that airport service workers are paid the prevailing wage and provided fringe benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 4420. A bill to provide for advancements in carbon removal research, quantification, and commercialization, including by harnessing natural processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 4421. A bill to protect Native cultural sites located on Federal land, to improve consultation with Indian Tribes, to bring parity to Indian Tribes with regard to Federal public land management laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4422. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the low-income housing credit for rehabilitation expenditures for buildings achieving enhanced energy performance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 4423. A bill to establish the Tribal Cultural Areas System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4424. A bill to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to authorize sales and leases of certain Federal land to federally recognized Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4425. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a scholarship and loan repayment program to incentivize physicians to enter into the field of sickle cell disease research and treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4426. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify rules relating to beneficiaries of charitable remainder trusts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4427. A bill to amend sections 801 and 804 of title 5, United States Code, to include guidance issued by non-agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 4428. A bill to support the security of Taiwan and its right of self-determination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 4429. A bill to amend the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act to support workers who are subject to an employment loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4430. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BURR):

S. 4431. A bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition; read the first time.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4432. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4433. A bill to authorize amounts to be made available for improvements to the Coast Guard Yard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4434. A bill to protect the privacy of personal reproductive or sexual health information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 682. A resolution designating June 15, 2022, as "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day" and the month of June as "Elder Abuse Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 683. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 391

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand

the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 602

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes.

S. 642

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to enable the payment of certain officers and employees of the United States whose employment is authorized pursuant to a grant of deferred action, deferred enforced departure, or temporary protected status.

S. 1125

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 1618

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1618, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow first responders to continue to exclude service-connected disability pension payments after reaching the age of retirement.

S. 2693

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2693, a bill to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to authorize additional projects related to the Salton Sea, and for other purposes.

S. 2700

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 2974

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2974, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Reducing Youth Use of E-Cigarettes Initiative.

S. 3571

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3571, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 3959

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3959, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the authority to suspend the right to introduce certain persons or property into the United States in the interest of the public health.

S. 4009

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4009, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 4030

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4030, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4202

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 4202, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 4203

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4203, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 4303

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4303, a bill to provide for a period of exclusivity for first interchangeable biological products.

S. 4325

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4325, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 4352

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4352, a bill to require a study on the effects of travel nurse agencies on the health industry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. 4366

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4366, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to seek to cooperate with allies and partners in the Middle East to identify an architecture and develop an acquisition approach for certain countries in the Middle East to implement an integrated air and missile defense capability to protect the people, infrastructure, and territory of such countries from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial system, and rocket attacks from Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 4369

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4369, a bill to allow States and local educational agencies to use any remaining COVID-19 elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds for school security measures.

S. 4409

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4409, a bill to prohibit providers of email services from using filtering algorithms to flag emails from political campaigns that consumers have elected to receive as spam.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 629, a resolution celebrating the 200th anniversary of United States diplomatic relations with Colombia.

AMENDMENT NO. 5086

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5086 intended to be pro-

posed to H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 4420. A bill to provide for advancements in carbon removal research, quantification, and commercialization, including by harnessing natural processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Carbon Removal and Emissions Storage Technologies Act, the CREST Act. I am pleased to be partnering with Senator CANTWELL on this bill. Our bipartisan bill would direct the Department of Energy to research and evaluate the feasibility of innovative carbon removal and storage pathways. The name the CREST Act alludes to the fact that we have reached the "crest" of our emissions and we must work to bring them down.

With more and more private and public sector commitments to reach net-zero emissions within certain timeframes, companies are scrambling to invest in quantifiable, durable, and verifiable carbon removal solutions. Microsoft, for example, has made a commitment to be carbon negative by 2030. Even though Microsoft plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by more than half, it will need to remove the rest of its carbon emissions. In order to do this, Microsoft plans to invest \$1 billion in carbon removal technologies, such as direct air capture, forestation, and carbon mineralization.

Despite the growing number of companies that are looking to offset their emissions, current cost estimates show that private sector investment alone will not be sufficient to research and deploy carbon removal pathways. I strongly supported the Energy Act of 2020, which authorized the first comprehensive Federal carbon removal research and development program, and the bipartisan infrastructure, which invested \$3.6 billion in direct air capture. Although these investments have been significant, more work is needed in further research, increased testing, and enhanced public-private partnerships to help aid in scaling carbon removal technologies.

The CREST Act would expand the Department of Energy's carbon removal research and development programs to include carbon removal pathways that can permanently sequester carbon dioxide or use carbon dioxide to produce biofuels or products. The key areas of focus for research and development in our legislation are biomass carbon removal and storage, geological removal, atmospheric and aquatic removal, carbon dioxide storage, and carbon dioxide removal quantification.

Our legislation also aims to accelerate the commercialization of innovative carbon solutions through a pilot program at the Department of Energy. This pilot program would be charged with accelerating the deployment of affordable and proven carbon removal technologies. This reverse-auction style pilot program would position the government to purchase innovative and promising technologies, subject to certain criteria, and reduce the costs of those technologies. This would allow companies that may not have as much purchasing power as Microsoft to participate in carbon removal to help offset emissions.

This pilot program would also support companies that are leading the way in carbon removal technology, like Running Tide in Maine, in bringing down the cost of its product. Running Tide captures carbon dioxide using kelp microforests, sun, ocean currents, and gravity. This new and exciting company grows floating kelp microforest attached to biodegradable buoys that sink as they break down. The carbon captured through the floating microforest is effectively removed for hundreds of years once it hits the ocean floor. Running Tide hopes to soon be selling “kelp carbon credits” to help offset private entities’ emissions. They are currently working to commercialize quickly. These innovative solutions are the kinds that our new pilot program would seek to encourage.

Mr. President, climate change is a significant environmental challenge that requires innovative and global solutions to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. While carbon removal and storage is only a small part of the solution, it is critical that we expand our country’s work in this area. Our bipartisan bill has earned endorsements from Bipartisan Policy Center Action, ClearPath Action, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, and many others. I urge my colleagues to join Senator CANTWELL and me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4424. A bill to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to authorize sales and leases of certain Federal land to federally recognized Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Recreation and Public Purposes Tribal Parity Act to correct a long-standing and unjust oversight that prevents Tribal governments from having the same opportunities as State and local governments do to buy and lease public lands for recreational purposes.

Current law allows the Bureau of Land Management to lease or sell certain public lands to State and local governments or qualifying nonprofits if those lands will be used for explicit

public and recreational purposes. These lands are used for a variety of public and recreational purposes, like historic monument sites, schools, firehouses, law enforcement facilities, court-houses, health facilities, hospitals, and parks. However, the law does not allow the BLM to sell or lease these lands to Tribal governments.

Our bill would allow Tribal governments to participate in the program in the same way that State and local governments do. Doing so would help ensure Tribal nations enjoy the same opportunities for land acquisition as State and local governments and nonprofit organizations do.

Tribal governments were not considered when the Recreation and Public Purposes Act became law in 1926. The omission leaves Tribes without the same opportunities as other governments to use public lands for these beneficial purposes. This disadvantage is clear, as the sale and lease of public lands is often at a discount compared to fair market value. This issue is part of the greater need to correct long-standing barriers that undermine the sovereignty of Tribal governments and our efforts to right historic wrongs.

The Federal Government owns about 640 million acres of land, about 28% of the total land in the United States. Public lands potentially available for disposal by the Bureau of Land Management alone are located across at least 18 States. The exclusion of Indian Tribes from qualifying for acquisition of these lands is not based on any clear policy rationale.

As our Nation works to strengthen Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, it is important that we ensure our laws treat Tribal governments in equal regard as State and local governments and ensure they have the opportunity for positive and productive land use activity.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate, and Congressman LAMALFA for championing this effort in the House of Representatives. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this commonsense bill as quickly as possible.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4430. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4430

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Interagency Patent Coordination and Improvement Act of 2022”.

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Decisions by the United States Patent and Trademark Office relating to patents may implicate, or have relevance to, information housed at or involving other Federal agencies.

(2) Entities submitting patent applications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office may also submit information to, or share information with, other Federal agencies, necessitating accuracy and consistency in those representations.

(3) Research has shown that patent examiners may benefit from additional information that is housed at, or is available to, Federal agencies other than the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to assess prior art and the state of science and technology.

(4) The Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office is encouraged to work with other Federal agencies.

#### SEC. 3. REPORT BY UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(1) a description of the frequency with which—

(A) information is provided by the Food and Drug Administration to the United States Patent and Trademark Office through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15 of title 35, United States Code, as added by section 4(a) of this Act, or under processes established by that Task Force; and

(B) the information described in subparagraph (A) is used in patent examinations;

(2) an identification of which methods of providing information, as described in paragraph (1)(A), and types of information so shared, are most useful to patent examiners;

(3) any recommendations for changes to be made by Congress to the mandate, funding, or operations of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(4) an identification of other Federal agencies with which the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office should explore opportunities for coordination that are similar to those undertaken with the Food and Drug Administration through the activities of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A).

#### SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON PATENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2(c), by adding at the end the following:

“(6)(A) In exercising the Director’s powers and duties under this section relating to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents, for human drugs and biological products, the Director shall, through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15, consult with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in the manner described in that section.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘decisions or actions involving patents’ means decisions or actions taken with respect to patents under this title.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

### “§ 15. Interagency Task Force on Patents

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an interagency task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force on Patents (referred to in this section as the ‘task force’), to coordinate efforts between the Director and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (referred to in this section as the ‘Commissioner’) regarding communication about, evaluation of, and effective implementation of the activities of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration with respect to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents (as defined in section 2(c)(6)(B)), for human drugs and biological products.

“(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Director and the Commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, or update an existing memorandum of understanding, for the purposes of implementing and carrying out the duties of the task force.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall be comprised of employees of the Office, who shall be appointed by the Director, and employees of the Food and Drug Administration, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner, who have appropriate expertise and decision-making authority regarding operational, administrative, technical, medical, pharmacological, clinical, and scientific matters to carry out the functions of the task force.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—The task force shall carry out the following functions regarding interagency coordination to promote reciprocal access of information:

“(1) Sharing information on the general processes of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration, what each such agency considers in its respective review of applications, and how each such agency evaluates those applications, which may be undertaken through routine and ongoing meetings, workshops, and training sessions.

“(2) Sharing information on new approvals of patents, human drugs and biological products, new technologies and prior art (as appropriate on a case-by-case basis), and scientific trends and developments.

“(3) Establishing a process that requires—  
“(A) the Director to request from the Commissioner (and the Commissioner to provide to the Director, upon receiving such a request)—

“(i) appropriate information for use by employees of the Office with responsibility to examine patent applications under section 131 (referred to in this section as ‘patent examiners’) regarding when certain information relating to a human drug or biological product approval, which may include updates to a label or newly approved indications, is made publicly available, including when such information is posted online; and

“(ii) appropriate access for patent examiners to relevant sources of product application, approval, patent, and labeling information or communications between the Food and Drug Administration and the prescription drug or biological product sponsors that may not currently be subject to public disclosure, as appropriate and only to the extent necessary for the Office to carry out the responsibilities of the Office, including ensuring accurate representations and the enforcement of the limitation on granting a patent because the claimed invention was on sale before the effective filing date of the claimed invention, as described in section 102(a)(1); and

“(B) the Office to assist the Food and Drug Administration in its ministerial role of listing appropriate and accurate descriptions of patents.

“(4) Establishing a process to ensure that, in appropriate circumstances, at the request

of the Director, the Commissioner shall consult with or otherwise furnish specific, available information to the Office with respect to certain applications, responses, or affidavits after rejections in order to assist patent examiners in carrying out the duties of those patent examiners.

“(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (d)(3)(B) shall be construed as—

“(1) directing the Office to interfere with or delay the ministerial function of the Food and Drug Administration of listing patents; or

“(2) indicating the position of the Office regarding the ability to assert a patent in infringement litigation.

“(f) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The task force shall establish appropriate protocols to safeguard confidentiality and prevent the inappropriate disclosure of information when sharing information between the Office and the Food and Drug Administration.

“(2) POTENTIAL REMEDIES.—In establishing protocols under paragraph (1), the task force shall identify appropriate remedies for any potential injury suffered when confidential information is made available, including inadvertently, through the sharing of information described in that paragraph.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“15. Interagency Task Force on Patents.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs such sums as may be necessary for the purposes of carrying out the functions of the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15 of title 35, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 682—DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2022, AS “WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY” AND THE MONTH OF JUNE AS “ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 682

Whereas, in 2021, approximately 53,000,000 residents of the United States, or about 1 in every 7 individuals, have attained the age of 65, and by 2060, 95,000,000 individuals in the United States will be over the age of 65 according to estimates by the Bureau of the Census;

Whereas elder abuse remains a challenging problem and can come in many different forms, often manifesting as physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, and social media abuse;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines, according to the Elder Justice Coalition;

Whereas more than 1 in 10 individuals in the United States over the age of 60 have been subjected to abuse each year, with many such victims enduring abuse in multiple forms, according to the American Journal of Public Health;

Whereas most reported cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults take place within private homes, and approximately 90 percent of the perpetrators in elder financial exploitation cases are family members or other trusted individuals, according to the National Adult Protective Services Association;

Whereas research suggests that elderly individuals in the United States who experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation are more likely to become the victims of abuse than those who do not experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation;

Whereas other risk factors for elder abuse can include low social support, poor physical health, and experience of previous traumatic events, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse;

Whereas close to half of elderly individuals who suffer from dementia will experience abuse during their lifetime, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported according to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services;

Whereas the Population Reference Bureau estimates that 1,900,000 elders will live in nursing homes by 2030;

Whereas, in a 2012 study conducted by Michigan State University, approximately 24 percent of the nursing home residents who participated in the study reported at least one incident of physical abuse by nursing home staff;

Whereas, on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the United States mourned the loss of elderly individuals who perished in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the emergence of new scams against older adults, including those related to vaccines;

Whereas there has been an increase in hate crimes committed against older, Asian Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, within the last 2 years, Congress passed and the President signed 2 measures that make nearly \$400,000,000 available for implementation of Elder Justice Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-3a et seq.) initiatives, the largest funding stream related to such initiatives in the history of the Act; and

Whereas Congress, in passing the Elder Justice Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 1395i-3a et seq.), the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21701 et seq.), the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), recognized the importance of protecting older people of the United States against abuse and exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 15, 2022, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”;

(2) recognizes—

(A) judges, lawyers, adult protective services professionals, law enforcement officers, social workers, health care providers, advocates for victims, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse;

(B) the important work of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council, which has continued through the previous 2 Administrations and involves 15 different Federal agencies;

(C) the essential work done by adult protective services personnel, who regularly came to the assistance of victims, investigated reports of abuse, and actively prevented future victimization of older people in the United States, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as the social isolation of elderly individuals due to stay-

at-home orders only increased the risk of abuse and neglect; and

(D) the importance of supporting State long-term care ombudsman programs, which help prevent elder abuse and neglect in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, where infection prevention and control deficiencies pose persistent challenges;

(3) applauds the work of the Elder Justice Coalition, and its members, whose efforts to increase public awareness of elder abuse have the potential to increase the identification and reporting of this crime by the public, professionals, and victims, and can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention; and

(4) encourages—

(A) members of the public and professionals who work with older adults to act as catalysts to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse—

(i) by reaching out to local adult protective services agencies, State long-term care ombudsman programs, and the National Center on Elder Abuse; and

(ii) by learning to recognize, detect, report, and respond to elder abuse;

(B) private individuals and public agencies in the United States to continue work together at the Federal, State, and local levels to combat abuse, neglect, exploitation, crime, and violence against vulnerable adults, including vulnerable older adults, particularly in light of limited resources for vital protective services; and

(C) those Federal agencies with responsibility for preventing elder abuse to fully exercise such responsibilities to protect older adults, whether living in the community or in long-term care facilities.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 683—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 683

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble a “SCD”) is a genetically inherited condition present at birth that involves a group of red blood cell disorders and is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the 2022 theme of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, “Shine the Light on Sickle Cell”, is an immediate call to action to improve the health and quality of life for individuals living with SCD and their families;

Whereas, in 1972, Dr. Charles Whitten established the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, which is now headquartered in Hanover, Maryland, to improve research, education, and healthcare for SCD patients;

Whereas, in 1972, Congress passed the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act (Public Law 92-294; 86 Stat. 136), which provided authority to establish education, information, screening, testing, counseling, research, and treatment programs for SCD patients;

Whereas SCD is a genetic mutation that causes a single misspelling in the DNA instructions for hemoglobin, a protein that aids in carrying oxygen in the blood, which may result in chronic complications related to anemia, stroke, infections, organ failure, tissue damage, intense periods of pain referred to as vaso-occlusive crisis, and premature death;

Whereas sickle cell trait (referred to in this preamble as “SCT”) occurs when an individual inherits one copy of the sickle cell gene from one parent, and when both parents have SCT, there is a 25 percent chance that any of their children will have SCD;

Whereas there are an estimated 3,000,000 individuals with SCT in the United States, with many unaware of their status;

Whereas an estimated 100,000 individuals have SCD in the United States, with 1 out of 365 African-American births and 1 out of 16,300 Hispanic-American births resulting in SCD, and nearly 1 out of 13 African-American babies are born with SCT;

Whereas SCD affects millions of people throughout the world, especially individuals of genetic descent from sub-Saharan regions of Africa, South America, the Caribbean, Central America, Saudi Arabia, India, Turkey, Greece, and Italy;

Whereas the prevalence of SCT varies greatly by region, with rates as high as 40 percent in certain regions of sub-Saharan Africa, eastern Saudi Arabia, and central India;

Whereas, in many countries that are poor in resources, more than 90 percent of children with SCD do not live to see adulthood;

Whereas approximately 1,000 children in Africa are born with SCD each day, more than half of whom will die before their fifth birthday;

Whereas the high prevalence of SCD in the central and western regions of India results in approximately 20 percent of babies diagnosed with SCD dying before the age of 2;

Whereas, in 2006, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution, adopted by the United Nations in 2009, recognizing SCD as a public health priority with a call to action that each country implement measures to tackle the disease;

Whereas screening newborns for SCD is a crucial first step for families to obtain a timely diagnosis and comprehensive care and to decrease the mortality rate of children with SCD;

Whereas approved treatments for SCD are limited, with the Food and Drug Administration approving only 4 SCD therapies since 2017, but there are more than 40 SCD therapies in development;

Whereas there is an immediate need for lifesaving therapeutics that can improve the duration and quality of life of individuals with SCD;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address SCD, which highlights the need to develop new innovative therapies and to address barriers to the equitable access of approved treatments;

Whereas, in 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the American Society of Hematology and the Sickle in Africa Consortium and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, hosted a webinar for a joint effort to strengthen efforts to combat SCD during the coronavirus disease (commonly known as “COVID-19”) pandemic and beyond;

Whereas the late Kwaku Oshene-Frempong, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, an American Society of Hematology member who served on the Global Coalition on SCD, has been a leader in advancing the body of knowledge in SCD research, public health, and medicine, and is recognized as immeasurably benefitting thousands of children worldwide;

Whereas there are emerging genetic therapy technologies, including gene editing, that can modify a patient's own hematopoietic stem cells to enable them to generate healthy red blood cells to prevent sickle cell crises;

Whereas while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD, and while advancements in treatment for complications associated with SCD have been made, more research is needed to find widely available and accessible treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas, although June 19, 2022, has been designated as “World Sickle Cell Awareness Day” to increase public alertness across the United States and global community about SCD, there remains a continued need for empirical research, early detection screenings for SCD trait carriers, novel effective treatments leading to a cure, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell anemia and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day;

(2) commits to ensuring equitable access to new sickle cell disease (referred to in this resolution as “SCD”) treatments by shining the light among all economic, racial, and ethnic groups to improve health outcomes for those living with SCD;

(3) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to create global policy solutions aimed at providing support for the global community and the domestic resources needed to provide access to newborn screening programs, therapeutic interventions, and support services in partnership with local governments;

(4) supports eliminating barriers to equitable access for innovative SCD therapies, including cell, gene, and gene-editing therapies in the Medicare and Medicaid systems for the most vulnerable patients;

(5) encourages the people of the United States and the world to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities on Sickle Cell Awareness Day to raise public awareness of SCD traits, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from SCD, complications from SCD, and conditions related to SCD; and

(6) urges that the options to be considered to combat SCD not only address access to potential future curative treatments, but also address the bias that the population most affected by SCD continues to face within the United States and global healthcare systems.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5098. Mr. CARPER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5098. Mr. CARPER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act of 2022”.

**SEC. 2. SELECTUSA DEFINED.**

In this Act, the term “SelectUSA” means the SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715).

**SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Semiconductors underpin the United States and global economies, including manufacturing sectors. Semiconductors are also essential to the national security of the United States.

(2) A shortage of semiconductors, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and other complex factors impacting the overall supply chain, has threatened the economic recovery of the United States and industries that employ millions of United States citizens.

(3) Addressing current challenges and building resilience against future risks requires ensuring a secure and stable supply chain for semiconductors that will support the economic and national security needs of the United States and its allies.

(4) The supply chain for semiconductors is complex and global. While the United States plays a leading role in certain segments of the semiconductor industry, securing the supply chain requires onshoring, reshoring, or diversifying vulnerable segments, such as for—

(A) fabrication;

(B) advanced packaging; and

(C) materials and equipment used to manufacture semiconductor products.

(5) The Federal Government can leverage foreign direct investment and private dollars to grow the domestic manufacturing and production capacity of the United States for vulnerable segments of the semiconductor supply chain.

(6) The SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce, in coordination with other Federal agencies and State-level economic development organizations, is positioned to boost foreign direct investment in domestic manufacturing and to help secure the semiconductor supply chain of the United States.

**SEC. 4. COORDINATION WITH STATE-LEVEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA shall solicit comments from State-level economic development organizations—

(1) to review—

(A) what efforts the Federal Government can take to support increased foreign direct investment in any segment of semiconductor-related production;

(B) what barriers to such investment may exist and how to amplify State efforts to attract such investment;

(C) public opportunities those organizations have identified to attract foreign direct investment to help increase investment described in subparagraph (A);

(D) resource gaps or other challenges that prevent those organizations from increasing such investment; and

(2) to develop recommendations for—

(A) how SelectUSA can increase such investment independently or through partnership with those organizations; and

(B) working with countries that are allies or partners of the United States to ensure that foreign adversaries (as defined in section 8(c)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)(2))) do not benefit from United States efforts to increase such investment.

**SEC. 5. REPORT ON INCREASING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SEMICONDUCTOR-RELATED MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION.**

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715; relating to establishment of the SelectUSA Initiative), shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a review of the comments SelectUSA received from State-level economic development organizations under section 4;

(2) a description of activities SelectUSA is engaged in to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; and

(3) an assessment of strategies SelectUSA may implement to achieve an increase in such investment and to help secure the United States supply chain for semiconductors, including by—

(A) working with other relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) working with State-level economic development organizations and implementing any strategies or recommendations SelectUSA received from those organizations.

**SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act. The Executive Director of SelectUSA shall carry out this Act using amounts otherwise available to the Executive Director for such purposes.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have five requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS**

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

**WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY****ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 682, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 682) designating June 15, 2022, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 682) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

**AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 88, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) was agreed to.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4431**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.



The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4431) to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

Mr. CARPER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

## SECURING SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLY CHAINS ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 222, S. 3309.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3309) to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act of 2021".

### SEC. 2. SELECTUSA DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "SelectUSA" means the SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715).

### SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Semiconductors underpin the United States and global economies, including manufacturing sectors. Semiconductors are also essential to the national security of the United States.

(2) A shortage of semiconductors, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and other complex factors impacting the overall supply chain, has threatened the economic recovery of the United States and industries that employ millions of United States citizens.

(3) Addressing current challenges and building resilience against future risks requires ensuring a secure and stable supply chain for semiconductors that will support the economic and national security needs of the United States and its allies.

(4) The supply chain for semiconductors is complex and global. While the United States plays a leading role in certain segments of the semiconductor industry, securing the supply chain requires onshoring, reshoring, or diversifying vulnerable segments, such as for—

(A) fabrication;

(B) advanced packaging; and

(C) materials and equipment used to manufacture semiconductor products.

(5) The Federal Government can leverage foreign direct investment and private dollars to grow the domestic manufacturing and production capacity of the United States for vulnerable segments of the semiconductor supply chain.

(6) The SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce, in coordination with other Federal agencies and State-level economic development organizations, is positioned to boost foreign direct investment in domestic manufacturing and to help secure the semiconductor supply chain of the United States.

### SEC. 4. COORDINATION WITH STATE-LEVEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA shall solicit comments from State-level economic development organizations—

(1) to review—

(A) what efforts the Federal Government can take to support increased foreign direct investment in any segment of semiconductor-related production;

(B) what barriers to such investment may exist and how to amplify State efforts to attract such investment;

(C) public opportunities those organizations have identified to attract foreign direct investment to help increase investment described in subparagraph (A);

(D) resource gaps or other challenges that prevent those organizations from increasing such investment; and

(2) to develop recommendations for—

(A) how SelectUSA can increase such investment independently or through partnership with those organizations; and

(B) working with countries that are allies or partners of the United States to ensure that foreign adversaries (as defined in section 8(c)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)(2))) do not benefit from United States efforts to increase such investment.

### SEC. 5. REPORT ON INCREASING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SEMICONDUCTOR-RELATED MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715; relating to establishment of the SelectUSA Initiative), shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a review of the comments SelectUSA received from State-level economic development organizations under section 4;

(2) a description of activities SelectUSA is engaged in to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; and

(3) an assessment of strategies SelectUSA may implement to achieve an increase in such investment and to help secure the United States supply chain for semiconductors, including by—

(A) working with other relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) working with State-level economic development organizations and implementing any strategies or recommendations SelectUSA received from those organizations.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute that is at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5098) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act of 2022".

### SEC. 2. SELECTUSA DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "SelectUSA" means the SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715).

### SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Semiconductors underpin the United States and global economies, including manufacturing sectors. Semiconductors are also essential to the national security of the United States.

(2) A shortage of semiconductors, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and other complex factors impacting the overall supply chain, has threatened the economic recovery of the United States and industries that employ millions of United States citizens.

(3) Addressing current challenges and building resilience against future risks requires ensuring a secure and stable supply chain for semiconductors that will support the economic and national security needs of the United States and its allies.

(4) The supply chain for semiconductors is complex and global. While the United States plays a leading role in certain segments of the semiconductor industry, securing the supply chain requires onshoring, reshoring, or diversifying vulnerable segments, such as for—

(A) fabrication;

(B) advanced packaging; and

(C) materials and equipment used to manufacture semiconductor products.

(5) The Federal Government can leverage foreign direct investment and private dollars to grow the domestic manufacturing and production capacity of the United States for vulnerable segments of the semiconductor supply chain.

(6) The SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce, in coordination with other Federal agencies and State-level economic development organizations, is positioned to boost foreign direct investment in domestic manufacturing and to help secure the semiconductor supply chain of the United States.

### SEC. 4. COORDINATION WITH STATE-LEVEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA shall solicit comments from State-level economic development organizations—

(1) to review—

(A) what efforts the Federal Government can take to support increased foreign direct investment in any segment of semiconductor-related production;

(B) what barriers to such investment may exist and how to amplify State efforts to attract such investment;

(C) public opportunities those organizations have identified to attract foreign direct investment to help increase investment described in subparagraph (A);

(D) resource gaps or other challenges that prevent those organizations from increasing such investment; and

(2) to develop recommendations for—

(A) how SelectUSA can increase such investment independently or through partnership with those organizations; and

(B) working with countries that are allies or partners of the United States to ensure

that foreign adversaries (as defined in section 8(c)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)(2))) do not benefit from United States efforts to increase such investment.

**SEC. 5. REPORT ON INCREASING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SEMICONDUCTOR-RELATED MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION.**

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715; relating to establishment of the SelectUSA Initiative), shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a review of the comments SelectUSA received from State-level economic development organizations under section 4;

(2) a description of activities SelectUSA is engaged in to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; and

(3) an assessment of strategies SelectUSA may implement to achieve an increase in such investment and to help secure the United States supply chain for semiconductors, including by—

(A) working with other relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) working with State-level economic development organizations and implementing any strategies or recommendations SelectUSA received from those organizations.

**SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act. The Executive Director of SelectUSA shall carry out this Act using amounts otherwise available to the Executive Director for such purposes.

The bill (S. 3309), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**VETERANS EXPEDITED TSA SCREENING SAFE TRAVEL ACT**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 2280, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2280) to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2280) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2280

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act” or the “VETS Safe Travel Act”.

**SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF PRECHECK PROGRAM TO CERTAIN SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44927 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) AVAILABILITY OF PRECHECK PROGRAM TO CERTAIN SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A veteran described in paragraph (2) is eligible for security screening under the PreCheck Program under section 44919 at no cost to the veteran if the veteran is able to meet the background check and other security requirements for participation in the program.

“(2) VETERANS DESCRIBED.—A veteran described in this paragraph is a veteran who—

“(A) is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code;

“(B) has—

“(i) lost, or lost use of, a limb;

“(ii) become paralyzed or partially paralyzed; or

“(iii) incurred permanent blindness; and

“(C) as a result of a loss, paralyzation or partial paralyzation, or blindness described in subparagraph (B), requires the use of a wheelchair, prosthetic limb, or other assistive device to aid with mobility.”.

(b) COORDINATION ON IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly—

(1) develop and implement a process under which a veteran described in paragraph (2) of subsection (g) of section 44927 of title 49, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), can receive the benefits under such subsection by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) provide to Congress a briefing on the status of implementing the process required by paragraph (1) by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 3. OUTREACH FOR DISABLED VETERANS ON AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.**

(a) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop and implement a process under which the Secretary provides to disabled veterans effective outreach about Transportation Security Administration programs designed to improve the screening process for passengers with disabilities.

(b) FURTHER ENHANCEMENTS TO EASE AIR TRAVEL FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS AND OTHER DISABLED VETERANS.—Notwithstanding subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), or any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, shall—

(1) engage appropriate veterans service organizations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, to assess the awareness of veterans of relevant Transportation Security Administration programs; and

(2) examine the need and feasibility of other measures to improve travel security procedures for disabled veterans.

(c) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of

this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of Transportation Security Administration shall jointly provide to Congress a briefing on the status of the implementation of subsections (a) and (b).

**ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for a pro forma session only with no business being conducted on the following date and time: Friday, June 17, at 8:30 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, June 17, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business for debate only and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each until 5:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of the patient colleague Senator PORTMAN of Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

**HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021**

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Delaware via Columbus, OH, for his comments, and I want to talk for a moment about what we did today in the U.S. Senate. We passed legislation very important to our veterans that has to do with expanding VA veterans’ healthcare coverage but specifically addresses the problem of our veterans who have been exposed to burn pits—toxic burn pits that have resulted in terrible illnesses, including cancer and others.

The legislation we passed is named the Heath Robinson PACT Act. And people may wonder: Well, who is Heath Robinson? Why is it named after him?

Heath Robinson was from Pickerington, OH, which is a small community outside of Columbus, OH. He enlisted in the Ohio National Guard. He became a sergeant first class. He did tours of duty in Kosovo and also in Iraq. He was with the 285th Area Support Medical Company and was a two-time Ohio Army National Guard NCO of the Year in 2012 and 2013—so a very distinguished career in the military.

In 2020, he died of cancer. And when you talk to the medical professionals, they say that his exposure to burn pits

is what resulted in his cancer developing and in the end of his life way too soon.

So his widow Danielle, who some people may remember was at the State of the Union up in the Gallery, and his mom Kathi and his daughter Brielle have been tireless advocates for addressing this burn pit issue, trying to stop the burn pits from being used but, of course, addressing the consequence of these burn pits. And they have channeled their grief in a constructive way, which is to encourage Congress to pass this legislation that we passed today. So many other veterans who have been exposed to burn pits will now get their healthcare because of their work and because of the tribute that is being paid to their father and husband and son, Heath Robinson.

So that is who Heath Robinson is, and that is why it was important to name that legislation today after him.

#### OTTO WARMBIER COUNTERING NORTH KOREAN CENSORSHIP AND SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 2021

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am also rising today to ask unanimous consent from my colleagues to pass other legislation, S. 2129, a bipartisan bill that I have coauthored with my colleague from Ohio, Senator SHERROD BROWN. It honors a young man named Otto Warmbier, and it counters North Korea's censorship and surveillance state.

Otto Warmbier was a native of my hometown in Cincinnati, OH, and his wonderful family are dear friends. He was a young man of great spirit, great intellect, and great promise. He was a student, a star at the University of Virginia.

In 2015, he went to North Korea with a tour group. It was a cultural visit with people from the United States, from Europe, looking to see what North Korea was like. They were there for a very brief period of time, but at the end of that brief visit, as he was waiting in line at the airport to leave with fellow members of the tour, North Korean security officials grabbed him and pulled him out of line.

He was detained, and then eventually he was sentenced for 15 years on trumped-up charges relating to whether or not he tried to take down a poster that was a political poster—15 years. Otto Warmbier, again, a young man of great promise, was unjustly convicted and imprisoned. And during a 17-month period of imprisonment, captivity, he was badly mistreated by the North Koreans, to the point that when he was returned to the United States in 2017, he came back in a comatose state from which he never recovered.

Otto Warmbier died almost exactly 5 years ago today, June 19, 2017. He was 22 years old, with his whole life ahead of him. So 5 years ago, life changed forever for Otto's friends, for his parents, his classmates. His service, his funeral was extraordinary, the outpouring of love.

His parents, Fred and Cindy, have taken their grief and done something very constructive with it. They have focused on exposing what North Korea is really like and also ensuring that, to the extent possible, North Korea is held accountable for this atrocity. No parent should have to endure what they went through.

I have worked with Senators BROWN, COONS, TILLIS, VAN HOLLEN, and HAGERTY, as well as the Warmbiers, as well as the Biden administration, on this legislation. It is called the Otto Warmbier North Korea Censorship and Surveillance Act. It would authorize sanctions against any foreign individuals involved in censoring the North Korean people's access to information on behalf of the Kim Jong Un regime.

Of course, the North Koreans aren't getting the truth because information is censored. So it is very important to get whatever real news you can into the country. When that happens, what you find out is that people leave North Korea and then work against the regime. But so many people don't have access to that information.

So this bill authorizes the U.S. Agency for Global Media to find new and creative ways to circumvent North Korean censorship and provides \$10 million annually for the next 5 years to counter North Korea's repressive censorship and surveillance state, including something very practical and needed, which is repairing the antennas that have been used for this purpose that were damaged in a typhoon years ago and have never been fixed because we haven't had the funding.

This bill has adequate funding to put in place the infrastructure that is now going to be necessary to effectively send true, accurate information to North Korea to counter North Korean propaganda for the sake of the people of North Korea.

Together, this Chamber can send a bipartisan message to the world that we will not stand for the censorship and the repression of the North Korean regime. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It is something we have worked on carefully. We have gotten technical assistance from the administration. It is something that I hope we can pass here this evening and then we can, in turn, get it passed in the House of Representatives and get it to the President for his signature.

So, Mr. President, I would now like to call up this legislation. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 159, S. 2129.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2129) to promote freedom of information and counter censorship and surveillance in North Korea, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amend-

ment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Otto Warmbier Countering North Korean Censorship and Surveillance Act of 2021".*

#### SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The information landscape in North Korea is the most repressive in the world, consistently ranking last or near-last in the annual World Press Freedom Index.

(2) Under the brutal rule of Kim Jong Un, the country's leader since 2012, the North Korean regime has tightened controls on access to information, as well as enacted harsh punishments for consumers of outside media, including sentencing to time in a concentration camp and a maximum penalty of death.

(3) Such repressive and unjust laws surrounding information in North Korea resulted in the death of 22-year-old United States citizen and university student Otto Warmbier, who had traveled to North Korea in December 2015 as part of a guided tour.

(4) Otto Warmbier was unjustly arrested, sentenced to 15 years of hard labor, and severely mistreated at the hands of North Korean officials. While in captivity, Otto Warmbier suffered a serious medical emergency that placed him into a comatose state. Otto Warmbier was comatose upon his release in June 2017 and died 6 days later.

(5) Despite increased penalties for possession and viewership of foreign media, the people of North Korea have increased their desire for foreign media content, according to a survey of 200 defectors concluding that 90 percent had watched South Korean or other foreign media before defecting.

(6) On March 23, 2021, in an annual resolution, the United Nations General Assembly condemned "the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" and expressed grave concern at, among other things, "the denial of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion . . . and of the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, and association, both online and offline, which is enforced through an absolute monopoly on information and total control over organized social life, and arbitrary and unlawful state surveillance that permeates the private lives of all citizens".

(7) In 2018, Typhoon Yutu caused extensive damage to 15 broadcast antennas used by the United States Agency for Global Media in Asia, resulting in reduced programming to North Korea. The United States Agency for Global Media has rebuilt 5 of the 15 antenna systems as of June 2021.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) in the event of a crisis situation, particularly where information pertaining to the crisis is being actively censored or a false narrative is being put forward, the United States should be able to quickly increase its broadcasting capability to deliver fact-based information to audiences, including those in North Korea; and

(2) the United States International Broadcasting Surge Capacity Fund is already authorized under section 316 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6216), and expanded authority to transfer unobligated balances from expired accounts of the United States Agency for Global Media would enable the Agency to more nimbly respond to crises.

#### SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

*It is the policy of the United States—*

(1) to provide the people of North Korea with access to a diverse range of fact-based information;

(2) to develop and implement novel means of communication and information sharing that increase opportunities for audiences in North Korea to safely create, access, and share digital and non-digital news without fear of repressive censorship, surveillance, or penalties under law; and

(3) to foster and innovate new technologies to counter North Korea's state-sponsored repressive surveillance and censorship by advancing internet freedom tools, technologies, and new approaches.

#### **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO COMBAT NORTH KOREA'S REPRESSIVE INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall develop and submit to Congress a strategy on combating North Korea's repressive information environment.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the challenges to the free flow of information into North Korea created by the censorship and surveillance technology apparatus of the Government of North Korea.

(2) A detailed description of the agencies and other government entities, key officials, and security services responsible for the implementation of North Korea's repressive laws regarding foreign media consumption.

(3) A detailed description of the agencies and other government entities and key officials of foreign governments that assist, facilitate, or aid North Korea's repressive censorship and surveillance state.

(4) A review of existing public-private partnerships that provide circumvention technology and an assessment of the feasibility and utility of new tools to increase free expression, circumvent censorship, and obstruct repressive surveillance in North Korea.

(5) A description of and funding levels required for current United States Government programs and activities to provide access for the people of North Korea to a diverse range of fact-based information.

(6) An update of the plan required by section 104(a)(7)(A) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814(a)(7)(A)).

(7) A description of Department of State programs and funding levels for programs that promote internet freedom in North Korea, including monitoring and evaluation efforts.

(8) A description of grantee programs of the United States Agency for Global Media in North Korea that facilitate circumvention tools and broadcasting, including monitoring and evaluation efforts.

(9) A detailed assessment of how the United States International Broadcasting Surge Capacity Fund authorized under section 316 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6216) has operated to respond to crisis situations in the past, and how authority to transfer unobligated balances from expired accounts would help the United States Agency for Global Media in crisis situations in the future.

(10) A detailed plan for how the authorization of appropriations under section 7 will operate alongside and augment existing programming from the relevant Federal agencies and facilitate the development of new tools to assist that programming.

(c) **FORM OF STRATEGY.**—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include the matters required by paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) in a classified annex.

#### **SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR NORTH KOREA'S REPRESSIVE CENSORSHIP AND SURVEILLANCE STATE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may impose the following sanctions with respect to any foreign person that the President determines know-

ingly engaged in, facilitated, or was responsible for censorship by the Government of North Korea or the Workers' Party of Korea identified under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 4(b):

(1) **BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.**—The President may exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) **INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

(A) **VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—In the case of an alien, the alien may be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An alien described in subparagraph (A) may be subject to revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) **EFFECT.**—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect consistent with section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201); and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) **PENALTIES.**—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (a)(1) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(c) **NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.**—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under subsection (a) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(d) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.**—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) **LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to any authorized law enforcement activities of the United States.

(3) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**—Subsection (a)(2) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, under the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or under other international agreements.

(4) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority or a requirement to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) **GOOD DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.**—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(3) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person” means any person that is not a United States person.

(4) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States; or

(C) any person in the United States.

#### **SEC. 6. REPORT ON ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2024, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 5(e)) a report on sanctions-related activities and enforcement undertaken by the United States Government with respect to North Korea during the period described in subsection (b) that includes—

(1) an assessment of activities conducted by persons in North Korea or the Government of North Korea that would require mandatory designations pursuant to the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.); and

(2) sanctions-related enforcement or other sanctions-related actions undertaken by the United States Government pursuant to that Act.

(b) **PERIOD DESCRIBED.**—The period described in this subsection is—

(1) in the case of the first report required by subsection (a), the period beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending on the date on which the report is required to be submitted; and

(2) in the case of each subsequent report required by subsection (a), the one-year period preceding submission of the report.

#### **SEC. 7. PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND COUNTERING CENSORSHIP AND SURVEILLANCE IN NORTH KOREA.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the United States Agency for Global Media \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to provide increased broadcasting and grants for the following purposes:

(1) To promote the development of internet freedom tools, technologies, and new approaches, including both digital and non-digital means of information sharing related to North Korea.

(2) To explore public-private partnerships to counter North Korea's repressive censorship and surveillance state.

(3) *To develop new means to protect the privacy and identity of individuals receiving media from the United States Agency for Global Media and other outside media outlets from within North Korea.*

(4) *To bolster existing programming from the United States Agency for Global Media by restoring the broadcasting capacity of damaged antennas caused by Typhoon Yutu in 2018.*

(b) *ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 104(a)(7)(B) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814(a)(7)(B)) is amended—*

*(1) in the matter preceding clause (i)—*

*(A) by striking “1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph” and inserting “September 30, 2022”; and*

*(B) by striking “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and inserting “Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media”; and*

*(2) in clause (i), by inserting after “this section” the following: “and sections 4 and 7 of the Otto Warmbier Countering North Korean Censorship and Surveillance Act of 2021”.*

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PORTMAN. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2129), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this is an important day for Otto Warmbier's family, for so many people who care about the repression and the lack of information going into North Korea, and I thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8:30 A.M.  
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:22 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 17, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

#### DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

STEVEN M. DETTELBAUGH, OF OHIO, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 16, 2022:

##### SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

JAIME E. LIZARRAGA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2027.

MARK TOSHIRO UYEDA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2023.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NAZ DURAKOGLU, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS).